

Oral Questions

INCREASE IN COST OF MILK

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): To give credence to my statement about this being against the wishes of the milk producers, Mr. Lowe, President of Beckers, said that he was extremely upset that metric conversion is being forced on the industry against their wishes, and it is another case of a rip-off by this Government.

Will the Minister just answer the question that I first asked? How does he justify a 40-cent unit price increase on the cost of milk at a time when Canadians can hardly feed the mouths of the babes at their tables because of the unemployment brought about by this Liberal Government?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I already said that I doubted the accuracy of the Hon. Member's statement. I think he is becoming the House expert on gratuitous statements that later appear to be totally false. It is not the first time the Hon. Member is rising in the House to make statements about the metric system which later were found to be untrue. In this case, I am sure that after checking the facts, we shall realize that once again, the Hon. Member has given the truth a wide berth.

* * *

TRANSPORT

REORGANIZATION OF QUEBECAIR—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mrs. Éva Côté (Rimouski-Témiscouata): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Representatives of the Department of Transport, Air Canada, the Government of Quebec and Quebecair have been meeting since last Tuesday. Madam Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister could give us a progress report on the discussions being held by the various parties with respect to the restructuring of Quebecair.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, in my last instalment, I said that the question was whether we should create an entirely new company or restructure the existing one. A few days ago, the Government of Quebec and Quebecair made a presentation before a group of negotiators representing the three parties concerned, and I am told this presentation was very realistic. At the present time, its contents are being analyzed and assessed by the negotiators for the Federal Government, and I shall have more news in a few days.

[English]

MINES AND MINING

REQUEST FOR REOPENING OF CYPRUS ANVIL MINE

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Yesterday the Yukon Territorial Assembly passed a motion calling on all parties, including the federal Government, to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the Cypress Anvil Mine in Faro is reopened. Will the Minister assure the House that the federal Government is actively pursuing the reopening of the mine through Dome Mines and that the aid package specifically put together for this purpose by the Government is still being pursued?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Madam Speaker, of course it has been the policy of the Government to do everything possible to ensure that this mine reopens. I am disappointed, though, that labour negotiations broke off the other day. I believe that the union has made all of the concessions that were anticipated originally, yet Dome has still not settled. Dome indicated that if we filled in the second year of the northern benefits package which my colleague, the Minister of Finance, did, and announced recently, they would then settle. They still have not settled. That is the only discouraging element at the moment. I am very hopeful that Dome will return to the table and sign a collective agreement as soon as possible.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—
AVAILABILITY OF COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAMS

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. With youth unemployment in British Columbia having now climbed to 23.4 per cent and with many of the unemployed seeking training or retraining, can the Minister tell the House why these young people are being told by employment centres in the Province that they must wait for at least two years before any one of them can take courses in such important areas as computer programming? Why is there a two-year wait for courses which are considered by the Government itself to be top priority areas?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that in this fiscal year we will be spending over \$85 million alone in federal funds to assist in the funding of community college programs and courses in the Province of British Columbia. We recently signed a new agreement with the Province of British Columbia under the National Training Act that will allow us to begin to shift the courses into areas of high priority such as computer training.