

Oral Questions

over 30 years the small business sector would have created more jobs than that.

Here is my question, and I would like to know if the Minister can give a yes or no answer. Is the shutdown of that truck centre caused by the opening of a Volvo-GM Heavy Truck Company plant in the United States? Are our Canadian jobs going down to the United States? Is that this Government's free trade policy?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Absolutely not, Mr. Speaker. I think indeed that our effort in the case of GM's Sainte-Thérèse plant, a \$110 million assistance, not only as I said maintained existing jobs but also helped increase certain jobs in Quebec, in Ontario and in each of the regions especially in the regions involved, at GM in Sainte-Thérèse. There again one of the regions where Government help was needed to build the industrial base that is essential to their economic welfare.

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[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS**EL SALVADOR—UNION WORKERS FIRED UPON BY MILITARY**

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last Thursday, according to telephone reports, in El Salvador the United Workers of El Salvador were demonstrating peacefully for the release of hundreds of political prisoners illegally held in Mariona Prison, when the military opened fire on them, seriously wounding Julio Portillo, the Secretary-General of the union, in the back.

I would ask the Minister whether he will request the Duarte Government to account for this violence and for the growing attacks during the last few months by the Duarte Government against trade unionists.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, once again the Hon. Member has brought to my attention on the floor of the House information I did not previously have. I will look into the matter and will report back to him.

I can report to him, with regard to the question he raised the other day, that my officials here had no information in Ottawa in respect of Antonio Hernandez. We have requested our Embassy in San José to make inquiries. I will advise the Hon. Member of the results of those inquiries as soon as I receive them.

Mr. Heap: I thank the Minister for the information on the previous request. The request I have just given was sent

yesterday to the Minister's office, but perhaps it has not arrived yet.

An Hon. Member: Did you send it through the Post Office?

Mr. Heap: No, it was sent from my office to the Minister's office, not by way of Alberta or any of the loons out there.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Heap: Mr. Speaker—

An Hon. Member: That is good for the NDP!

Mr. Andre: Ray Martin says thank you.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member.

An Hon. Member: He was referring to Tory MPs.

Mr. Heap: Mr. Speaker, my reference was only to members of Alberta who are present in this House.

Some Hon. Members: Too late.

Mr. Heap: I would like to ask the Minister further—

An Hon. Member: Keep it up; you are doing well.

Ms. Copps: What about the NDP MLAs in Alberta?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Member could get straight to the question.

● (1500)

BOMBING OF OSCAR ROMERO COMMITTEE OFFICE

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister inquire about the bombing on the same day last Thursday of the office of the Oscar Romero Committee of Mothers for the Detained and Disappeared with the wounding of two mothers, the destruction of all their files, and the threat made the next day by the Minister of National Defence to break up their weekly peaceful marches asking for news of their husbands, brothers and sons who have disappeared?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will make that inquiry and I would hope that the Hon. Member will demonstrate in this House some of the moderation that his Party sometimes proposes to others of us.

I should say to him, just as I will pursue those inquiries so will I ensure that his reference to myself and the other residents of Alberta are not lost upon the electorate and the public of Alberta.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!