

the minister has been hiding a report which foresees the end of Quebec shipyards.

While his colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources claimed last week that there would be major spinoffs throughout Canada from the Hibernia project, the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology remained silent. Why did he not say anything?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I am certainly pleased to answer the Hon. Member for Hamilton East. The way she keeps asking her questions, Mr. Speaker, we had quite a rest for three months without having to answer them.

That being said, the hon. member is absolutely not informed of the situation. She should have listened to our briefings on the Quebec shipbuilding industry. Since 1987, Mr. Speaker, this Conservative Government has provided Marine Industries in Quebec with \$150 million to help them increase their competitiveness and continue their operation. We are currently working together with the Quebec Government on a possible solution to the frigate and destroyer problem.

Mr. Speaker, everybody is aware of the fact that the shipbuilding industry throughout the world is experiencing difficulties and we have done for the shipbuilding industry in Quebec what her government had never done in 20 years.

As to the spinoffs from the Hibernia project, I am pleased to advise the hon. member that beyond the persons-years guaranteed to Canada, a contract worth \$360 million has been awarded to a Quebec firm, and that a second contract has been awarded to a firm whose assets are 60 per cent Quebec-owned. Mr. Speaker, if those are not spinoffs for Quebec, I am sure I do not have the same definition as the hon. member of that province's interest!

• (1450)

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton-East): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology remained silent in this House, although he knew five months ago that the Quebec shipbuilding industry was going to disappear. He remained silent again when Air Canada announced that 2,900 workers have lost their jobs, and when hardly half an hour ago, the Canadian National

Railways announced that 1,500 workers had also lost their jobs.

What is he doing as Minister of Industry, when all we see here in Canada are industries being lost?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Further to what the Minister of Finance said, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we live in more difficult economic times. But contrary to what my colleague's party did during the 1981-82 recession, we are taking steps to help the industry.

When she referred to the lost jobs, she overlooked the fact that in the area of industrial development, especially in Ontario and Quebec, there were major spinoffs and that last week, the Economic Council of Canada insisted on the fact that through the Western Canada and Atlantic Canada diversification agencies, the government had taken steps to meet its obligations through privatization and tax incentives.

What makes a recession under a Conservative Government different from a recession under a Liberal Government, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we have answers which you never had which led to this country being left in an unbelievable financial mess!

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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[English]

SOLICITOR GENERAL

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In December, 1988 the Canadian Security Intelligence Service initiated a national inquiry into what it called native extremism. In June, 1989 that report was presented to the Conservative government warning the government of the possibility of "sporadic outbreaks of violence" by native people.

Will the Solicitor General first confirm that, yes, indeed his government was in receipt of this report in the spring of 1989, and can he explain to the people of Canada why his government did absolutely nothing to prevent the unfortunate and tragic events at Oka and Akwesasne when it was prewarned?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, with respect to that particular report on native extremism, which is referred to in the annual