

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

## INDUSTRY

## ASSISTANCE TO LAID-OFF WORKERS AT SEPT-ÎLES AND SCHEFFERVILLE

**Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan):** Madam Speaker, I am sorry the motion I presented yesterday under Standing Order 43 was not agreed to by both sides of the House. My question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration and deals with the problem now affecting the Iron Ore Company at Sept-Îles and Schefferville. Can the minister tell the House, first, what discussions he has had with the president of the company, Mr. Brian Mulroney, and to what extent the company is willing to become involved financially in helping the workers affected directly by those lay-offs; second, what concrete and direct steps his department can take to rescue as many of the people laid off as possible; third, whether or not he has met his colleague from DREE to see what else their two departments can do to help; and, fourth, whether he intends to deal with the Iron Ore problem the way he is handling the Chrysler situation, that is, whether he intends to help the North Shore workers officially and substantially as he is doing for the Ontario workers?

[English]

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, as I indicated in an earlier answer, I did meet with the president of the Iron Ore Company. We discussed measures that could be taken jointly to provide for the relocation of those workers affected by lay-off. There is a committee that has been established to survey what can be done to meet the representatives of the unions and the company and to undertake those measures that we can apply, such as mobility, retraining and other forms of job opportunities.

I can also report to the House that I have met with my colleague, the minister responsible for DREE. We discussed the situation on the North Shore and once we receive a report from officials we are prepared to respond with any special measures at our disposal, similar to those that were applied in the Windsor area. I hope we will shortly have in place the new industrial relocation program, so that there will be a large variety of federal measures that could be applied directly to that area as soon as possible. We hope that an announcement of that program will be made within ten days to two weeks.

## MCDONNELL DOUGLAS—CREATION OF JOBS FOR CANADIANS

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. What action does the government propose to take to require that McDonnell Douglas in Toronto create jobs in Canada for Canadians commensurate with the billions of dollars that we are spending with them in order to acquire the F-18?

[Translation]

**Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State, Small Businesses):** Madam Speaker, we are now reviewing the tenders submitted to McDonnell Douglas concerning the structural parts of the F-18. The government, jointly with this company, will be in a position to announce the decisions made in this matter within a few weeks.

● (1440)

[English]

**Mr. Deans:** Madam Speaker, I am not sure whether I received an answer to that question. Might I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Finance directly related to the problem of jobs. The auto industry is not responding in the way anticipated. Nor is the number of jobs being created in Canada as it was indicated there would be over the last few months. Therefore, can the minister tell us whether he has considered setting up a parliamentary task force to review within a short period of time the state of the industry, the effect of the decisions being made in the United States on the Canadian marketplace, and specifically, the creation in Canada both of research and development and job opportunities?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lapointe (Charlevoix):** Madam Speaker, like everyone else in this House and in Canada, the hon. member should be aware of the major problems now facing automobile manufacturers both in the United States and in Canada as well as in other countries. He should also be aware of the negotiations now going on, such as the take-over of AMC by the Renault group in the United States and the present discussions between the Renault group and Canadian officials concerning the two AMC plants in Canada. He should also be aware that when the Japanese minister of industry and international trade was in Canada yesterday, the Canadian Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce raised the matter of possible investments by Japan in the Canadian automobile industry. This industry is now experiencing extremely difficult times, Madam Speaker, and we do not have any magical answers under our pillow, as the hon. member seems to think.

[English]

## MCDONNELL DOUGLAS—ABSENCE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE AT WORKERS' MEETING—GUARANTEE OF F-18A WORK CONTRACTS

**Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I would like to follow up on what my colleague just asked concerning the McDonnell Douglas situation. I shall direct my question to the parliamentary secretary.

Workers who were laid off by McDonnell Douglas held a meeting recently in Mississauga. Not one representative of the government saw fit to attend, although an invitation was issued. Why did no one attend to show interest in their