

*Oral Questions***STATUS OF WOMEN****DEPARTMENTAL STAFFING**

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, this morning the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, NAC, was here to lobby the various political Parties. I use the word lobby in its best sense. They put difficult questions to us on a number of political issues concerning women. The theme of this year's conference is women in the economy.

There were no questions this morning on energy, perhaps because we have the first woman Energy Minister in Canada, an event we all applauded. However, I checked out her Department as an example at noon hour, only to discover that the Deputy Minister is Mr. Paul Tellier, and the Assistant Deputy Minister is Mr. Pierre Perron. The Petroleum Incentives Administrator is Mr. Lazar. The Administrator of COGLA is Mr. Taschereau. There are three senior Assistant Deputy Ministers, and guess what, Mr. Speaker? They are all men—Mr. Reiner Hollbach in conservation, Mr. Len Good in policy analysis, and Mr. Roland Priddle in the petroleum sector.

There are five Assistant Deputy Ministers. In the human resource sector there is Mr. J. Ranger; in the finance sector there is Mr. Mensforth; in mineral policy there is Mr. Hutchinson; in Research and Technology there is Mr. Whitham, and in the earth sciences sector there is Mr. W. Hutchinson.

Ironically, in a Department handled by a woman Minister, all the senior officials are men. Of course that is the same in the oil industry, with one or two exceptions, including Petro-Canada.

I put Pat on notice that I will raise this matter next year—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member from British Columbia that his time has expired.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

INDUSTRY**MITEL CORPORATION—TAKEOVER BY BRITISH TELECOM**

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. He will well understand that over the weekend there was a widespread and very deep concern by many Canadians about the numerous takeovers which are now occurring in Canada's high technology industries. Particularly disturbing is the takeover bid by British Telecom of the Mitel firm which in the past received over \$35 million worth of federal grants, in return for which it agreed to maintain a high level of research and development, jobs, and capital equipment development, in Canada.

Will the Minister ensure, when the application is to be reviewed and assessed under the FIRA legislation, that those conditions extracted back in 1981 and 1982 will continue to be upheld, that we will continue to insist upon guarantees of research and development taking place, and upon job guarantees in this country, and that the role of Mitel, a leading company in the development of telecommunications, will be maintained?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member, of course I would give him that assurance. I am sure the Hon. Member and other Members of the House would be pleased to know that only this morning the board of directors of British Telecom approved the intent of the deal, that is, to subscribe for approximately 51 per cent of the then issued equity shares of Mitel, which will put some \$330 million of fresh equity into that company.

I have been assured by the executive of Mitel this morning that there is absolutely no suggestion of the transferring of technology or the stripping of any assets which are now in Canada. In fact this will make Mitel the main international manufacturing arm of British Telecom itself.

CANADIAN INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I find it exceedingly strange that the Minister responsible for the industrial development of Canada would say that we should take great satisfaction in having lost Canadian control of a major Canadian high-tech company to a foreign owner.

I think it is important to look at the anomaly. One of our own Canadian high-tech companies, Bell Canada, is putting up a bid of \$1.5 billion for an oil company, but we cannot seem to get Canadian buyers for our own telecommunications industry. What kind of plans and policies does the Minister have to encourage Canadian investment in high technology or telecommunications? Can we expect something very specific in the Budget of May 23 to give Canadian investors encouragement and incentive to invest in their own industry, rather than having to rely upon foreigners? That seems to be the plan and policy of this Minister.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, again in reply to the Hon. Member, I felt that he and other Members would be pleased to learn that there was a fresh infusion of capital into Mitel, bearing in mind that that company has had a rather difficult financial period in the last few months and years. Its shares sank as low as \$6 from a high of \$48. It has been running losses. In short, the debt it was handling was extremely difficult for it to handle.

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This is fresh capital, with no suggestion that the employees, who number 5,000, 50 per cent of them in Canada, will in any way be impacted or that there will be any reduction. It is a