

Oral Questions

there be no misunderstanding. Westar and the Government had best take prompt action now because Hazelton and this Member will not take these kinds of job losses lying down.

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CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY**ESTABLISHMENT IN OTTAWA-HULL AREA ADVOCATED**

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology, I applaud the Government's announcement in the Speech from the Throne of the creation of a Canadian space agency. The space agency will essentially be a consolidation of personnel and facilities now existing in several government Departments and agencies all of which are located in the National Capital region. Accordingly, I urge the Government to establish the space agency in the Ottawa-Hull area.

It would be costly and counterproductive to move the approximately 200 people now working here in this field to another part of the country. Hon. Members should also be aware that the Canadian space industry is located in virtually all regions of the country. A neutral management centre here in the nation's capital, free of regional favouritism, is essential to the future development and growth of a cost-effective space industry. Much of Canada's space program activity also involves participation with other countries. In my view the nation's capital is clearly the natural and most cost-effective area in which to locate the head office of the new Canadian space agency.

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INDUSTRY**EFFICIENCY OF CANADIAN SAWMILLING INDUSTRY—EFFECT OF EXPORT TAX**

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are being punished by the Government. Canadians are paying a 15 per cent tax on Canadian wood products because Washington wants it, and what Washington wants from this Government, it gets.

Canadians are being punished because of the inefficiency of the American sawmilling and processing industry. In terms of productivity, a Canadian worker in a sawmill in Canada averages 500,000 foot-board measure of lumber per year, but because of the inefficiency of the United States sawmilling industry an American sawmill worker averages only 300,000 foot-board measure per year.

Canadians are being punished because they are being more productive. They are being charged a 15 per cent tax not only on stumpage but on labour costs, sawmilling costs and processing costs, because of the inefficiency of the American

industry. This Government should be ashamed of itself for the way it is treating one of the main, staple resources of Canada.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD*[English]***THE ADMINISTRATION****RESIGNATION OF FORMER MINISTER OF STATE (TRANSPORT)—
INFORMATION ALLEGEDLY EMANATING FROM PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. It appears from all media accounts that the Prime Minister's Office is selectively leaking information about the resignation of the former Minister of State for Transport and, indeed, about his wife. Why is this being done? What is its purpose? Does the Prime Minister not feel that that is manipulating justice and interfering with the judicial process and the police inquiry?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, of course I will not comment on any specific news report containing allegations, alleged information, or even straight-forward information. I would only say to my right hon. friend that the police who are conducting this full inquiry will, no doubt, if they feel that any action, alleged or otherwise, by anyone anywhere is inhibiting their investigation, pursue their investigation in that area.

**PUBLIC INQUIRY—REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER TABLE
LEGAL OPINION**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Prime Minister insisted that he wanted nothing to interfere with the police investigation. Yet it appears that members of his staff are, for political purposes, interfering with that process by selectively leaking information to the media. Because the Prime Minister read from some document yesterday and referred to a legal opinion from the law officers of the Crown, would he be willing to table that opinion from the law offices to the effect that a public inquiry would interfere with the police investigation? Would he also table the Order in Council, or whatever document was obtained, authorizing the RCMP to delve into this whole matter?

• (1120)

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the notes yesterday, when Mr. Tellier visited with me to convey the opinion of law officers of the Crown I made notes of the advice he was conveying to me so I could impart it faithfully to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and other Members of the House. Those were my notes of the advice given us. The information was conveyed to me by the Clerk of the Privy Council and his chief legal adviser verbally and that was the information I conveyed to the