

[Translation]

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

MONTREAL—LAYOFF OF NORTHERN ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Could he tell the House if it is true that 6,500 employees of Northern Electric in Montreal will be losing their jobs?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, there was, in fact, an article—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member knows that he cannot ask a question in that form. He is asking the minister to deny or to confirm a report, and, in that form, the question is not in order.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

First of all, I would like to express the joy felt by the government members upon realizing that the opposition has decided to boycott the question period, as this gives us—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member does not have the floor to express his joy, but to ask a question.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Could he tell the House if the government intends to take measures concerning the announcement that 6,500 employees of Northern Electric will be out of work by Christmas?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, I read this report in *The Gazette* this morning and, as usual, I immediately looked into the matter. This is the situation at the present time: The Northern Electric Company and its employees signed a contract whereby the company must, in the case of a temporary work stoppage, give its employees a 30-day notice, and this is what happened yesterday. The reason for this is the fact that a strike is in progress in one of the company's plant at Bramalea, Ontario. This strike has been going on for some time now. It may be that on account of that, some spare parts may not be available at the Montreal plant, thus bringing about temporary layoffs. Everyone hopes for an early settlement of the strike at Bramalea which would prevent the layoffs.

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### TRANSPORT

OTTAWA—BUS SERVICE TO RAILWAY STATION

**Mr. Georges-C. Lachance (Lafontaine):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question I want to direct to the Minister of Transport.

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### Inquiries of the Ministry

Would he tell this House whether it would be possible to operate a bus service between downtown Ottawa and the railway station? In my opinion, this is a serious matter—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member is not allowed to deliver a speech at this point but he may ask a question.

**Mr. Lachance:** This is my question, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to know whether the Minister of Transport is planning to take the necessary action towards the operation of a bus service between downtown Ottawa and Ottawa Union Station?

**Mr. Speaker:** This question ought to be placed on the order paper.

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[English]

### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL DISTRICT

**Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West):** I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for housing. When the chairman of the National Capital Commission states publicly that, in his opinion, a federal district is inevitable, is he speaking for the government and expressing government policy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows very well that a question cannot be asked in those terms. A question can be asked about statements made outside the House by cabinet ministers, but not by public servants.

**Mr. Francis:** Then, may I ask the minister whether it is the policy of the government to establish a federal district in the national capital region.

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, it is not government policy to establish a federal district in the national capital region, and the chairman was expressing his own opinion.

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### NATURAL RESOURCES

CONTRIBUTION TO COST OF RECREATION LAND ACQUIRED BY METRO TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**Mr. Robert P. Kaplan (Don Valley):** Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the government reconsidered its recent decision to refuse to contribute to the cost of recreation land acquired under a shared cost program by the Metro Toronto and region conservation authority?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!