

Oral Questions

Chrysler which contribute to Canada's economy and employment, while the Japanese do not. The Minister should know that quotas and import restrictions alone do not create productivity and jobs in Canada.

REQUEST THAT FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS CREATE JOBS IN
CANADA

Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton): Madam Speaker, may I ask the Minister when the Government is going to stop pussyfooting around with unproductive, band-aid solutions such as that announced yesterday and, instead, establish long-term arrangements to encourage offshore manufacturers to produce or even assemble vehicles in this country? This would create jobs and increase productivity in this country. There are solutions. When is the Minister going to start using them?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): First of all, Madam Speaker, I think my colleague, the Minister of State for International Trade, should be complimented on the agreement he negotiated with the Japanese automobile industry, under the circumstances. The fact is that the share of the domestic market for Japanese cars, which is forecast to be less this year than last year, indicates that there will be an increase in the share of the market for North American automobiles, which addresses the question that the Hon. Member raised.

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[Translation]

MINES AND MINING

MINES AT MURDOCHVILLE, P.Q.—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Madam Speaker, as the Member for Gaspé, I would like to welcome the Assistant Mayor of Saint-Malo, Mr. Albert-Yves Saër. We expect to have thousands of French people visiting us next year.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a question? This period is reserved for questions only.

Mr. Cyr: My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of State (Mines).

Last December, I informed the Minister that Gaspé Mines in Murdochville had suspended operations because of the low price of copper. However, the company wanted to remove overburden in order to provide employment for about 300 to 500 workers in the area.

Recently, the newspaper *Le Devoir* reported from Quebec City that the Province of Quebec had submitted a program to the Minister for a joint development plan for Murdochville, in order to get the area out of its impasse.

Could the Hon. Minister inform the House whether the Government of Canada has refused to take part in a joint

project with Quebec for the creation of 500 jobs in Murdochville? And does the Minister intend to provide financial aid—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

● (1440)

[English]

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, as far as I know, no such request has come forward formally from the Government of Quebec. However, we have had a number of meetings with senior officials from Noranda Mines at Gaspé. Our first meetings took place in December of last year, at which time we explained the programs available to them through the use of Section 38 and NEED. We are at the moment continuing our negotiations with the company, and we have already placed some men through these programs.

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FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK

APPROVAL OF LOANS—APPLICATION OF CRITERIA

Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, my question was to be directed to the Minister of State responsible for small businesses and tourism. If he has left the Chamber, perhaps I may address my question to the Minister of Finance. In his April 19 budget the Minister of Finance stated, "The operating mandate of the FBDB—the Federal Business Development Bank—will be expanded to give it a broader role in supporting Canadian small businesses." However, subsequent memos, copies of which I do have in my possession, Madam Speaker, from the Vice-President, Financial Services, of FBDB, to the regional offices, clearly outline that the new mandate actually prohibits them from lending money to those small businesses which have turned to the Bank as a last resort. Will the Minister tell the House why more stringent criteria have been applied to approving loans, when we were led to believe quite the opposite?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the Hon. Member to repeat the question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rompkey: I only heard the last part of it.

Mrs. Cossitt: Madam Speaker, I can repeat the question. I believe most Members in the Chamber did hear it. I was basically referring to the budget whereby the FBDB was given a broader mandate, and the fact that I have memos in my possession whereby the Vice-President of the Federal Business Development Bank is doing the exact opposite. In the eastern Ontario region since the April 19 budget only nine loans have been approved to small businesses through FBDB. Could the Minister explain this if, indeed, the Government is expanding