

Oral Questions

ment make up the shortfall in announced savings; or have the government's projected savings been reduced?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member directed the original question to me and I indicated to him that we would still be in the ballpark. Ministers and members of our caucus felt we could place better emphasis in other areas and make the changes more equitable. I have agreed to do that, provided we are able to maintain the savings from the cuts.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH
GENERAL MOTORS ON PLANT IN QUEBEC

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Could the minister tell the House at what stage the negotiations are between the federal government and General Motors on the establishment of a plant in the province of Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, my department is carrying on talks with General Motors. They may still build more than one plant in Canada, and one of those plants may well be in the province of Quebec. They have denied the rumours coming out of a Washington report that they will not build in Quebec. They have denied that rumour, and are still considering building in Quebec.

[Translation]

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question. Given the statements made by General Motors, could the minister tell the House whether or not this company is going to build such a plant in the province of Quebec? If not, would he say that the federal government will do everything possible to have General Motors build such a plant in the province of Quebec?

[English]

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, if I could inform the House of that, I would gladly do it; but, as I say, negotiations are still going on. When they are successfully concluded, I shall be glad to inform the House.

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FINANCE

METHOD OF PAYING LOTO CANADA WINNERS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question follows one asked by my colleague, the hon. member for York-Simcoe, and I address it to the Minister of

[Mr. Epp.]

Finance. In view of the fact that the minister has been accusing anybody and everybody of undermining the Canadian dollar, except perhaps himself and this government, I wonder if he is aware that a government agency, namely, Loto Canada, is advertising their Halloween draw to be paid in gold, rather than Canadian dollars. Does the minister not feel that this, in itself, is damaging to the confidence of our dollar—not only here but, more importantly, abroad?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry that the hon. member does not want us to help the mining industry in Canada.

● (1432)

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, I should not be surprised at the minister making a joke of a situation as important as this.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jelinek: Notwithstanding the minister's answer, the fact remains that the position this government has taken has become the laughing stock of the New York money market.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. member have a question?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Jelinek: I wonder if he is prepared at this time to help the dollar in this respect, by consulting his colleague who is responsible for Loto Canada in order to rectify this embarrassing monetary situation.

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TRADE

ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. During the parliamentary recess his colleagues, the Minister of National Defence and the Secretary of State, announced at a hastily-called press conference that the government would introduce economic boycott legislation. From the details they gave, it appears the legislation will do little more than place in statute form the statistical gathering exercise which the minister's department has undertaken.

Will the minister tell this House whether the legislation will have in it a prohibition on the supply of information regarding the racial origin, religion, colour and political affiliations of Canadian citizens and/or the officers, directors and employees of a Canadian corporation involved in international commercial transactions?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the proposed legislation, lengthy discussions took place between officials of my department and cabinet ministers with the Canada-Israel committee. They are satisfied the legislation that we will be