

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Broadbent:** What nonsense. We asked you to guarantee it and you did not answer the question.

**Mr. Mulroney:** —of Quebecers and Quebec workers. I thought that that was unseemly, unfair, and unworthy of the Leader of the New Democratic Party—

**Mr. Orlikow:** We don't need lectures from you.

**Mr. Mulroney:** —who ought to know full well—

**Mr. Broadbent:** Don't give me lectures on worthiness.

**Mr. Mulroney:** —that all of the leading economic indicators in the country are going the right way. Thousands and thousands of jobs are being created. I know it causes him heart-ache. He does not like good news.

**Mr. Hovdebo:** Order!

**Mr. Mulroney:** I can guarantee him that the Progressive Conservative Government has no lessons to learn—

**Mr. Riis:** Answer the question.

**Mr. Mulroney:** —from the NDP in regard to protecting the jobs of Canadians and Quebecers.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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#### NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

##### TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION ON FUTURE MANAGEMENT

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I have two questions for the Deputy Prime Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** One.

**Mr. Gauthier:** You're only allowed one.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. In that case I had better go to someone who has only one question. Order. The Hon. Member for Ottawa-Carleton.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** I am trying, Mr. Speaker. My question for the Deputy Prime Minister concerns a recent report about the National Arts Centre, and I emphasize the word "National". Does he or the Government have any intention of accepting the recommendation of the Handleman task force to turn the National Arts Centre over to local municipalities or to the National Capital Commission?

**Mr. Fulton:** He's sowing fear.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as part of the program review that was mandated by the Prime Minister a year ago last September, some 19 study teams, with over 102 private sector members and roughly the same number of public servants, have produced hundreds and hundreds and hundreds—

**Mr. Broadbent:** That's 300.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —of alternatives, options, and suggestions with respect to solving the very real problems with the wide array of programs that have been examined. Cabinet is addressing those matters one by one. At the proper time the decisions will be announced—

**Mr. Gauthier:** That's enough, Erik.

**Mr. Nielsen:** —as the very attractive decision on the rationalization of real property was yesterday by the Minister of Public Works and the President of the Treasury Board.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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#### CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

##### LAY-OFFS IN MONCTON

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In reply to a question which I asked the Minister last October 9, the Minister indicated that CN lay-offs in Moncton were a result of a decline in traffic and that he hoped the lay-offs would not continue for a long period of time. Can the Minister then explain why 140 of the 225 workers who were laid off were informed that their lay-offs were permanent? And that, Mr. Prime Minister, is not good news.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is fully aware of the decline in CN traffic and of the fact that the available workload requires some adjustment in the work force.

**Ms. Copps:** You're too busy running around arresting people.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shush!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** CN is currently conducting an internal assessment of its maintenance requirements. I suspect that that evaluation will be completed some time early in the new year. At that time we will be looking at various options. I will certainly take the Hon. Member's representations and convey them to the management of the CNR. That is something that the Hon. Member for Moncton has been doing a very good job of, Mr. Speaker.

##### REQUEST THAT MINISTER ASSURE PROTECTION OF JOBS

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, there is a cloud of uncertainty hanging over Moncton right now. There are over 1,000 jobs on the line. When will the Minister take a stand on this issue and assure those people in Moncton that their jobs will be protected? This, Mr. Minister, would be very good news.