

Oral Questions

eighty to manage those resources in the way they think best without having to deal with Washington.

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian lumber industry has and is being held hostage by American domestic politics of protectionism. Thousands of jobs have been lost and more will be lost later.

Given that it is going to take more than a year to settle the issue, does the minister have a financial plan since there is nothing in the new budget to provide help for the owners and the workers who have lost their jobs?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend and I are on the same wave length. We both disagree with the action the United States has taken and we are going to defend the interests of Canada as much as we possibly can, and that is going to help softwood lumber workers.

We also point out to the United States that it is shooting itself in the foot. On the one hand it is trying to get its housing industry going by taking measures to encourage people to buy houses. On the other hand it is encouraging the price of lumber to go up with this action on softwood lumber that is increasing the cost of a house. We are taking that message to the United States as well, as we continue the actions against the countervailing duty. We are going to win this and that is the best thing we can do for softwood lumber workers in Canada.

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[Translation]

MONTREAL'S ECONOMY

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister is not here, I will direct my question to the Minister of Transport who is responsible for the Montreal region.

According to a document from the Quebec Department of Labour and Income Security, the Montreal region is in such decline that one adult in two does not work and the number of welfare recipients has almost doubled recently.

Will the minister ask the Prime Minister to personally look into this matter, before Montreal becomes another Schefferville?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, one thing Montrealers know is that this government will never behave like the Liberal government of the time and intervene in the middle of the night, through the Senate, to pass legislation preventing Montreal industries from expanding.

Since it was elected, this government has paid a lot more attention to the interests of Montrealers than the previous Liberal government did, and it has invested in industries of the future such as pharmaceuticals, aerospace and aviation. Those industries create the jobs of the future, whereas all the time the Liberal Party was in power there was even more unemployment than now in Montreal.

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, greater Montreal provides almost half of the jobs in Quebec. When will the minister take his responsibilities seriously to truly give hope to Montreal and create jobs in that city before it becomes a ghost town?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, all the studies that were done on Montreal indicate absolutely that one thing must be provided in Montreal, that is more training and retraining for workers. Montrealers remember very well that the members opposite prevented large sums of money from being made available for those purposes by opposing Bill C-21, not only in the House of Commons but also in the Senate. That legislation now enables us to provide the necessary funds to address this fundamental problem of training and retraining workers.

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[English]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment.

As the minister is aware, world-wide ozone depletion means increased cases of skin cancer, immune disorders and also cataracts. It also has terrifying effects on the marine food chain.

In light of European actions on this issue and President Bush's commitment to ban the production and consumption of CFCs by 1995, will the minister today announce that Canada will also implement a ban by 1995?