

Adjournment Debate

In the first two and half years of the program's operations, a total of \$64.4 million of POWA benefits went to beneficiaries in Quebec, with the federal government contributing \$45.1 million. Under POWA, the Montreal region has benefitted from \$37.2 million in assistance for 808 older workers affected by major lay-offs. This represents 58 per cent of Quebec POWA beneficiaries and one-third of all beneficiaries across Canada.

Eligible older workers from lay-offs designated under POWA will receive assistance under the program till they reach the age of 65. Officials of the Canada-Quebec POWA Committee continue to gather the facts regarding lay-offs at a number of establishments in the Montreal region. As the committee completes the analyses of these lay-offs, I will re-evaluate the findings along with

my counterpart, the hon. André Bourbeau, and at that time we will ensure that as many workers as possible will be eligible for POWA, always bearing in mind budgetary restrictions.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may remind the hon. member, who was a very influential minister in the Liberal Cabinet at the beginning of the eighties, that if at the time his government had done more to help industries in the Montreal area, including the petrochemical industry, perhaps we would not be in the kind of situation we are in today.

Mr. Speaker: The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24 (1).

The House adjourned at 6.36 p.m.