

Mr. MacLellan: The very least the Government could do would be to show some confidence in the industry and guarantee these loans. How many jobs have to be lost before the Government stops talking and takes some action?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Government has taken action in the past which has generated more jobs in the oil patch than existed under the policies followed by the Party opposite when it was in government.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

B.C. TELEPHONE COMPANY LAY-OFFS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment. Is the Minister aware that in the Kootenay region of British Columbia, where unemployment has been 21 per cent, the B.C. Telephone Company will add to this tragedy by eliminating 70 jobs for telecommunication workers? Will the Minister approve the request of the Telecommunication Workers Union for a grant to study the impact of technological change, which is causing the women workers to be laid off in large numbers with no employment alternative in this area of very high unemployment?

● (1450)

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have the question from the Hon. Member. As she and other Members of the House know, the Canadian Jobs Strategy has a number of programs which allow us the flexibility to look at projects put forward. A great many projects in the Province of British Columbia have been funded. I am sure if she encourages various groups to submit projects in the future they will be considered.

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE ON WOMEN

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I am talking about 70 women working for a telephone company who are being phased out of their jobs because of technological change. Will the Minister work with the Minister of Communications and ask the CRTC to hold special hearings in Cranbrook, B.C., into this emergency? Will she also respond to the community request for a one-year moratorium on these lay-offs? She is interested in technological change and women, and here is her chance to do something about it.

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, in her first question the Hon. Member asked whether or not a project to address this issue could be considered. I said if a project were put forward it would be considered. I am not quite sure what the Hon.

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Member expects me to do other than that. I welcome such projects.

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[Translation]

REGULATIONS

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF TASK FORCE CREATED TO STUDY CERTAIN ASPECTS

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council, Government House Leader and Minister responsible for regulations.

The Government of Quebec has set up a task force to analyze regulatory aspects.

Has the Minister responsible taken steps to be in touch with the Government of Quebec, in order to avoid duplication and encourage satisfactory co-ordination of these efforts?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have asked my senior officials at the Secretariat to work in close co-operation with other provincial Governments.

In the case of Quebec, we have had two meetings with Mr. Reed Scowen, Chairman of the task force on regulations.

Mr. Speaker, there is every indication that our efforts will be successful, for the greater benefit of Quebec and the country as a whole.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

MARITIME FARMERS' COUNCIL—LONG-TERM FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. It concerns the meetings he conducted yesterday with the Maritime Farmers' Council. He will know that the Council of Maritime Premiers supports their cause for long-term funding for grain price assurance programs, livestock feed development certificate programs, and infrastructure assistance. Will he recommend to his cabinet colleagues full funding of that request? Will he also provide in the first year \$23.5 million in order to make that a viable plan to meet a very, very serious problem?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's representations. However, I must remind him and the House that the representations I get on that subject are far more numerous and frequent from Members on this side of the House. I did have an excellent