

paper, while not long ago it did approve a grant of \$40 million for Kruger when it acquired the Bowater plant in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, a company that does produce newsprint, most of which is for export?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I would only say to the Hon. Member that our Department handles hundreds of applications from various companies across the country. On average, about two applications are turned down for varying reasons, for every application that we accept. Unfortunately, Domtar was one application that was turned down. I would only suggest to the Hon. Member that it would be absolutely impossible to review in the House, as he suggests, the reasons for each rejection, one by one.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

EFFECT OF BEER STORE LABOUR DISPUTE IN ONTARIO

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. He is aware that there is a labour dispute with regard to beer stores in Ontario, and that there has been the import of American beer into the province. Could the Minister possibly talk to his provincial counterpart about the purchase of beer within Canada, in order to help the hotels and motels in this province?

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to give my hon. colleague the assurance that under our packaging and labelling legislation, specific information must be given on various products, which includes bilingual labelling and volumes in metric. The Government intends to monitor the situation very carefully to see to it that these products are labelled accordingly, and as soon as we have reached any conclusions, we shall inform those concerned.

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SHIPBUILDING

QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion concerning government support for a key industry in the province of Quebec.

Last Friday, the Prime Minister said in Quebec City that the Government had not decided whether it would be taking special measures to rescue shipyards in Quebec and the rest of

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Canada. He was very pessimistic about the future of this industry.

Does this mean that the Government now intends to withdraw its support for our shipyards, as it has withdrawn its support for Domtar?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, it is very much to the contrary. The Hon. Member must have noted that the Davie shipyard in Quebec has recently been purchased by Versatile and, as a result of their application to us, I am pleased to inform the Hon. Member that we were able to agree to a loan of \$15 million with respect to that purchase, that will be repaid when the TRUMP Program is fully completed by Davie Shipbuilding. In short, that is an instance where we were able to help. I am very pleased that we helped, and I am sure that the House would be enthused to hear that we are doing things in Quebec.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ELECTION CAMPAIGN SPEECH

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Can he explain the contradiction between the pessimism demonstrated by the Prime Minister with respect to the future of the industry and the fact that in August of last year the Conservative Party said in its campaign promises that a top priority would go to the creation of a more viable and prosperous shipbuilding industry? How does he explain that contradiction? Where is the \$75 million, not \$15 million, that was promised to shipbuilding in the Empire Club speech, and which could be creating jobs in Atlantic Canada and Quebec today?

● (1450)

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Hon. Member that our Prime Minister, being Irish, is always optimistic.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: In connection with the shipbuilding industry, as the Hon. Member may know, we have had ongoing discussions with that industry. I think in due course he may be most pleased with some of the proposals which will be agreed to, to ensure that the shipbuilding industry will become viable in coming years.