

Oral Questions

Mr. Andre: Indeed, there are regional development programs for the resource and central regions of Quebec which have a high unemployment rate, much higher than in the Province of Ontario. We give those grants to promote employment in those high unemployment areas. We do so proudly and properly.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that they do it proudly and properly. I think he will recognize that if the normal procedure had been followed, his departmental staff would have consulted with the other manufacturers of the product in Canada to see if there was a need for another producer of that same product.

Why did the Minister's staff not do that in this case and still give nearly a \$6 million grant to build a plant in Lavaltrie—Paroisse?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the staff of the Department of Industry, Science and Technology consults widely. They are experts on the industry. They consult widely with the industry representatives.

I repeat to the Hon. Member, he ought to follow the traditions around here, give warning and then he will get detailed answers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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NATIONAL REVENUE

CORPORATE TAX DEDUCTIONS

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Canadians know by now that the Government has little dedication to sharing the tax burden equally. However, there are more glaring discrepancies which I think taxpayers do not need to be financing.

One example I would like to present to the Minister is the question that those companies and corporations which supported and advertised for the Government on the trade deal, in the support of it, are allowed a tax deduction, while those corporations or businesses which did not agree with the Government's position and advertised against the trade deal are not. There are different rules for different people. If one is Hurtig

Publishers there is one rule. If one is Domtar or the Royal Bank there is another rule.

How does the Minister justify this unfairness?

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I do not know from where the Hon. Member gets her information. The only time that I made a public comment on this matter was Thursday, May 18 of this year when I said: "I cannot make blanket statements whether pro or anti free trade advertising is deductible or not. I would be irresponsible if I made a blanket statement that said those who support free trade can write it off and those who don't support free trade cannot write it off. I am not saying that and that is not the case".

DISCLOSURE AND FAIRNESS RULES

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest to the Minister, then, that he speak to his Department. In committee the Deputy Minister said that there does not have to be tangible proof that a contribution has gained or produced income for a firm or business, but that they would be able to deduct this for income tax purposes. It seems to me that we see that the Government's friends still set the agenda and the Canadian taxpayers pay for it.

The Minister is saying it is not clear. When will the Minister stop this arbitrary system of rewards and punishments? When will he set rules clearly on full disclosure and fairness?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, what this Hon. Member is saying is totally and absolutely untrue and dishonest.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I want the Minister to make it very clear that he is not accusing the Hon. Member of dishonesty. He may very well want to take the position that what she has asserted is not so, but there is another way of putting it.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, I was not suggesting that the Hon. Member is a liar. I am saying that her facts are not the facts.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Minister could try again.