

Oral Questions

the Minister allowed Genstar to take over Canada Trust, can the Minister assure the House that there has been no self-dealing in that situation?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, we received an undertaking from Genstar at the time of that takeover that there would be no self-dealing. We have much stronger undertakings from Imasco, and we also have undertakings on other things on which we did not have undertakings before.

RESPECT FOR UNDERTAKING GIVEN BY GENSTAR

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said that she received an undertaking from Genstar that it would not be involved in self-dealing, but can she confirm that that undertaking was respected?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to check with the Superintendent of Insurance, but no self-dealing incidents have been brought to my attention.

SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of State for Finance and refers to the Superintendent of Insurance to whom the Minister just referred. When the Superintendent of Insurance, the Minister's chief adviser on trust companies, was asked whether he could provide any compelling evidence that the takeover by Imasco would in fact be in the best interest of the country, he said that he could not provide any compelling evidence that it would be in the best interest of Canada. If her chief adviser said that it was not in the best interest of the country, why did she go against that advice?

● (1120)

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Superintendent of Insurance did not say that the *status quo* was necessarily in the best interest of the country either.

Let me explain to the Hon. Member that what we were able to accomplish in the arrangement of which the Government can be very proud was our underlying commitment to allow the market-place to function, provided policy purposes were met. It is fair to depositors. It is fair to the companies involved. It is fair to Hon. Members of the House who expressed concern about some of the matters on which we obtained undertakings. I think that is in the public interest.

GOVERNMENT'S DECISION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister. The clear recommendation of the Finance Committee on two occasions was to stop the takeover. It was virtually the opinion of the House of Commons that the takeover should be stopped. The Minister did not do that; the Minister did not stop it. Can she

identify any Member of the House, or anybody, who says that the decision to go ahead with the takeover is a good idea or a good decision in the interest of Canada and Canadians?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think there are Members of the House who think we did a good job on this deal.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-LIBYA RELATIONS—REQUEST FOR COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. On January 10 the Prime Minister announced a series of economic measures against Libya, but they were far from cutting off all significant economic relations with that country. Would the Government not agree that the situation has become far more serious than it was on January 10? Will the Government, therefore, immediately announce a truly comprehensive package of economic measures against Libya, covering both companies and workers, and thereby set an example for the world community and help encourage Libya to become a more responsible member of the world community?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the Liberal House Leader has been over the last few days, because I have certainly been answering those questions. He will be happy to know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is taking advantage of the OECD meeting to meet with representatives from France, Japan, Australia, the United States, New Zealand, Denmark, the Netherlands, and the Federal Republic of Germany, and that he now detects a greater momentum for co-operation on terrorism, which is likely to be high on the agenda of the Tokyo Summit.

REPLACEMENT OF AMERICAN WORKERS IN LIBYA BY CANADIAN WORKERS

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised the Government does not realize that the situation has changed since January 10. In the January 10 statement the Government urged Canadian companies and workers not to fill gaps when Americans left Libya. Could the Government assure the House today that this has not happened and that Canadian companies and workers are not helping to prop up the Libyan regime and everything connected with it? Could the Government give us that assurance and tell us what steps it is taking, and has taken, to ensure that Canadian workers and companies are not filling gaps left when Americans withdrew from Libya?