

Oral Questions

[Translation]

SHIPBUILDINGREQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET VERSATILE VICKERS
EMPLOYEES

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services. Not only does the Government lack of action with regard to the frigate issue threaten the jobs of Vickers workers, but it may very well lead to the shutdown of the Montreal shipyards. I want to ask the Minister if he would be kind enough to spare some time today to meet with the Versatile Vickers workers who are here today and who are anxious to seek solutions likely to prevent the shipyards from closing down?

[English]

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I think I should bring to the attention of the Hon. Member that a short time ago I gave an undertaking that I would secure an appropriate legal opinion concerning our right to intervene. I have now received that, and I have read and reread it seven times with a view to determining whether there was any opportunity for us to do anything legally. I can find none. The reason for that is that the authors of the contact, who sit over there, including the Member for Papi-neau, failed to protect the interests of the Montreal workers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: More, more!

Mr. Speaker: Order, order!

Mr. Hees: Next question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the Member have a supplementary question?

[Translation]

DEMAND THAT MINISTER MEET EMPLOYEES PRESENT IN
GALLERY

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, the Minister will have to substantiate his allegations. In the meantime I would ask him to answer a much simpler question: Does he have the nerve and courage to do his job this afternoon and meet with the Vickers workers who want to see him and who are here in the galleries? Yes or no, that is easy enough to answer!

[English]

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I have also indicated that the Government is very much concerned with this situation.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McInnes: I have met with union representatives once and have given my undertaking that I will meet with them immediately following this Question Period to bring them up to date on developments.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McInnes: I have today, Mr. Speaker, sent a telegram to the chairman of the board of Vickers because I want to be apprised of its corporate policy with respect not only to the Montreal yard, but all of the Quebec yards.

Mr. Boudria: Did you send it seven times?

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BANKS AND BANKINGCANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANK—INFORMATION PROVIDED TO
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF BANKS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I assume that he accepts the doctrine of ministerial responsibility which is the basis of our parliamentary system. I would like to put a factual question to him. Did he know that Mr. Neville Grant told the Inspector General of Banks, on the day before the \$225 million bail-out was announced, that the Canadian Commercial Bank was expected to lose \$350 million and that a bail-out of that amount was needed? That is a factual question and I would like a factual answer.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the answer that I have given on two prior occasions in this Question Period still stands.

Mr. Broadbent: You didn't answer.

ESTEY COMMISSION—POSSIBLE APPEARANCE OF MINISTERS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Justice who complains he does not get any questions. I want to ask him one in his capacity as Attorney General of Canada.

Mr. Nunziata: Remember, he is not as astute as he should be.

Mr. Waddell: Has the Government ruled out the possibility that some of the Ministers will be testifying before the Estey inquiry?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for that question. He must have stayed awake last night thinking it up. Mr. Speaker, with the Opposition which we now have in this Parliament, we rule nothing out.