

[English]

**MANPOWER****LAY-OFFS IN TRANSPORT AND FOREST INDUSTRIES—  
GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. There is a very serious pattern of massive lay-offs in the experience of last week. We had massive lay-offs in the transport and related industries and then in the forest industry, because of the depressed markets, we find that in particular MacMillan Bloedel is laying off some 4,000 people and that Crown Zellerbach is laying off some 500 people. I wonder whether the minister has been in touch with these companies to see how the extreme financial hardship to which these employees will be exposed can be minimized? Has he been able to convince these companies that, in light of the fact that Christmas is coming they might be able to postpone these massive lay-offs. Has the minister been in touch with these companies?

**Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** No, Mr. Speaker, not personally, but my department through the management consultative services and other arms of the department are there in the interest of helping the employees. Unhappily, as so often is the case, we come into the situation afterward to help them on the occasion of the lay-off. The representations the hon. member has made probably will be brought to the attention of the companies to see whether anything can be done to forestall the lay-offs.

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**TRADE****LAY-OFFS IN FOREST INDUSTRY AS RESULT OF DEPRESSED  
MARKETS—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO STIMULATE**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who is busy with the Prime Minister and the Government House Leader. The minister probably did not hear my question regarding the massive lay-offs which are being experienced in the forest industry in British Columbia with some 4,000 being laid off by the MacMillan Bloedel Company as a result of depressed markets. Crown Zellerbach is also involved. I wonder if the minister has been involved with these companies in order to determine what steps he can take to bring about some buoyancy in these very important industries keeping in mind we are now faced with a very serious pattern of lay-offs which does not speak well for the future.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have heard absolutely nothing from the companies mentioned by the hon. member, but I shall inquire about it. Should they get in touch with me, I shall be pleased to hear from them.

*Oral Questions*

● (1430)

[English]

**SEARCH AND RESCUE****ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW POLICY TO BE MADE AT GANDER,  
NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR DETAILS**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Defence, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport who shares jurisdiction over search and rescue with his colleague, the Minister of National Defence. On October 18, following questions in the House, the minister gave an undertaking outside the House that he would be reporting within two weeks on the recommendations of the task force that had been set up. That was on October 18. Today, his colleague, the Minister of National Defence, en route to NATO meetings in Europe will be touching down in Gander where he will be holding a press conference to announce the new policy. Since parliament is being affronted by this move by the minister, will he now rise in his place and tell the House just exactly what the Minister of National Defence will be announcing in Gander tonight?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Obviously, this will be for the Minister of National Defence to announce, but I am surprised to hear the hon. member express indignation at the fact the minister will visit Newfoundland and make the statement there.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McGrath:** In view of the fact that members on this side of the House presented the House with petitions and raised the question on numerous occasions, thus demonstrating the obvious interest of the House in this matter, I would ask the minister, a distinguished parliamentarian and former minister of justice—

**An hon. Member:** Don't flatter him.

**Mr. McGrath:** —if he is prepared to rise in his place at three o'clock and make the statement in the House that his colleague will be making in Gander later this day.

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**INDUSTRY****PROPOSAL TO PAY PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVES—GOVERNMENT  
POSITION**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Calling the Prime Minister—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hees:** As the Prime Minister knows, exports are declining steadily and, as the Prime Minister quite rightly said in Tokyo recently,