

than the previous Government did for a number of years, point number one. Point number two, as I said, the Government remains committed to the modernization of Sysco but the company has to provide the Government with a business plan by the end of March. The Government will react to it right after that.

PRESENTATION OF BUSINESS PLAN

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the same Minister. I am somewhat surprised and annoyed at his response because the Deputy Prime Minister said in this House on June 16, 1986:

The business plan has been received. The Treasury Board submission is in the final stages of being concluded.

Why has the Minister shown such wanton disregard for the people of that region who suffer such high unemployment? Is it a confirmation of his belief that we are second-class citizens in Atlantic Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I have just said. Management is expected to submit to the Government a business plan outlining the company's future policy. The Government remains committed with respect to the Sysco Steel modernization and is anxious to co-operate with the provincial Government. Mr. Speaker, once again we have done more for that region of the country than the previous administration ever did in 10 years.

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[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

FAIR WAGES SCHEDULE—DISCONTINUANCE OF PRODUCTION

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. He has decided to stop producing the fair wages schedule, which has been the basis for the minimum wage paid on federal government construction projects for a number of years. Why has he made that decision? Why has he done so without consulting labour officials? Why has he done it since employers' groups have said it will result in lower wages for construction workers?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, all I did was to take the administrative measures required in connection with the situation which had been prevailing since 1982, and all parties interested in this matter have made their position known since 1982.

Oral Questions

[English]

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, why has the Minister done so at the request of the employers? Why has he refused to meet with the workers? Is his Government not a Government for all people? He knows it will reduce wages in this country and he is not being fair.

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have never refused to meet anyone. It is because of the contentious nature of this decision that it was made on a trial basis only.

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[Translation]

SHIPYARDS

INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT IS DELAYING CONTRACT AWARDS TO THREE QUEBEC SHIPYARDS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. It has now been a year since the Government made its commitment to restructure the shipyard industry in Quebec. Five thousand workers are still waiting for jobs. At Lauzon, workers were informed that unfortunately, construction on the second ferry, *Caribou II*, will be postponed for the fourth time, until October 1987. Between now and the month of May, 200 workers will be laid off at the Sorel yard, and the marine section at Vickers in Montreal will close down completely in two weeks.

Could the Minister explain to the House why his Government is still putting off awarding the manufacturing and refitting contracts he promised the three shipyards?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, no contracts have been delayed. This Government has shown tremendous concern for the shipyard industry in Quebec. In fact, we initiated the rationalization process. Since then, contracts have been awarded to the various yards, and they will be respected. As I said before, it is now up to the management of Marine Industries to carry out the projects and contracts as scheduled.

INQUIRY WHY CERTAIN WORK HAS NOT YET BEGUN

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, the Pontius Pilate of the federal Government is now washing his hands of Marine Industries. He made a promise, on three separate occasions, in Quebec City, his hometown, that work on *Caribou II* would start a month ago. The shipyards are empty. Nobody is working there, and the only contracts are those awarded by the federal Government. Is the Minister, considering his incompetence and that of his predecessors, prepared to resign his post and make way for