

means we will lose \$60 million from the economy and 1,300 direct jobs.

My supplementary question is directed to the same minister. The town of Summerside has been waiting for nine months for this decision. The business and investment confidence in that whole community is dropping every day because of a lack of commitment from this government.

Will the government make a firm commitment today, assuming the base is closed, that it will restore the economy of Summerside to where it was dollar for dollar before that announcement of April 27?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the announcement yesterday by Cavendish for an investment of up to \$80 million without any federal or provincial contribution is an indication that those who are investing their own money have tremendous confidence in P.E.I. and in the economy there. I do not understand why the opposition finds it so useful to continually talk doom and gloom when those who are investing their own money do not have that same view at all.

Second, change is regrettable but change is inevitable. Every year in Canada, on average 100,000 corporations disappear and 130,000 new corporations are created. Four million people change jobs. Those things happen.

For the opposition to continue to say, "Please prevent any change from occurring ever in our areas. Please step in and stop change," is for us to stand still in time and that is impossible as well as being a silly thing to do.

We are addressing the situation there. We have extensive programs to help people who are ill-affected by change. We have extensive regional development programs. We have an agency in Moncton newly established. It has a tremendous track record of helping Atlantic Canada. We are paying attention to the problem.

We would ask the opposition to co-operate to see that we make the change beneficial instead of saying at all times, "Stop all change." That is not possible. It is not wise.

Oral Questions

TRANSPORTATION OF TOXIC WASTE

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned of the illegal waste imports into Quebec. Today I have to report to the House that I have learned that a U.S. company is once more planning to ship toxic material to Detroit and across the Detroit River to Windsor.

The Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Transport have both written to me indicating they have no jurisdiction in this matter. I want to ask the Minister of Transport how this can possibly be true when these barge operations will take place across a busy international waterway and when, in fact, the guidelines for environmental assessment indicate that these guidelines are to be applied in the case of anything in which the federal jurisdiction, that is, international waterways will be affected.

How can this be true that this ministry and the Ministry of the Environment have no jurisdiction in this serious matter?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if I well understand the question, my friend talks about planning to do something. I am sorry, but I do not believe that either the Minister of the Environment or myself could deal with something which could be a possibility. I would prefer if my friend could give me some certainty at a time when, along with the Minister of the Environment, I will be able to deal with that.

• (1200)

The way I heard and understood the question, it is a possibility the American company plans to do something. I would prefer to have more certitude before answering that kind of question.

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, in this case the company has already had informal discussions with the Department of National Revenue and the Customs people about the shifting of Customs officers to this new private dock which they intend to use for these cross river shipments.

We are talking about something which is very much in the works. I want this government to make a commitment that it will not be prepared to simply let this happen, that this environmental danger, especially to people down river in my constituency, will be forced to undergo environmental review procedures such as any