

Mr. Domm: Mr. Speaker, the Finance Minister fails to recognize that people who are put out of work in Toronto and area, because those aircraft in which we have invested \$500 million to manufacture cannot even be sold in Canada, are the ones adversely affected.

REPORTED OFFER OF ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. How could the Minister advise this House on April 17 that there are no subsidies to give to this company to sell these aircraft in Canada, while Parliamentary Secretaries debating in this House say there is an assistance package being offered to Canadian companies, yet as of today all three of them, out west and in Ontario know nothing about this assistance package? Could the Minister of Finance or the Minister responsible for de Havilland rise in his place and answer? Is the Government going to protect these jobs by offering interest assistance to de Havilland, or will the Government let \$100 million worth of aircraft from offshore be sold here in Canada?

● (1440)

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, once more I am happy about the latter day conversion of the Conservatives to support of the Canadian aviation industry. I can tell my hon. friend that the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, the Minister of Transport, the Minister responsible for CDIC, and myself, have been very actively at work trying to find ways and means of ensuring that de Havilland will indeed be a very thriving company and that it will be able to market its products, both in Canada and abroad, on a competitive basis. That work has been progressing significantly, and when the announcement is ready the Ministers responsible will make it.

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INDUSTRY

MOBILE ARCTIC ISLAND ENGINEERING CONCEPT

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who crows about being the Minister of all Canadians, even though his policies have led to the unemployment of hundreds of thousands of them. Another study has just been released proving the viability of small-scale oil production in the Beaufort Sea through the use of the mobile Arctic Island concept. The Canadian consortium promoting this project includes a firm in my constituency. It has been trying to gain the support of the Minister for this unique Canadian concept for over two years. When will the Minister of Finance pledge his personal support for this project so that it may soon come to fruition, creating hundreds and hundreds of jobs, particularly in western Canada?

Oral Questions

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could answer the Hon. Member's question. There is no one individual in the House who has been a stronger advocate of the development of energy in this country than the present Minister of Finance, both in his present portfolio and in his previous one.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lumley: Also I can advise the Hon. Member that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I have met with the various principals of this project on two or three occasions and that analysis is going on right now with respect to the potential development benefits for Canada of the project.

Mr. Siddon: It is interesting that the Minister of Finance hedged on that question. As witnesses have told the Senate hearings on the National Energy Program, the NEP only allows for large scale oil development. That is the way in which the incentive system was structured. Therefore the Minister of Finance would have to admit the failure of the NEP if, indeed, he recognizes the viability of this small-scale Arctic Island project.

PROPOSED DRYDOCK FACILITY AT NANAIMO, B.C.

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Will he pledge today to announce funding for a major drydock facility in Nanaimo, British Columbia? The proposal has been on his desk for many months. This drydock facility would allow the construction of the unique mobile Arctic Island Canadian concept, thereby putting hundreds of British Columbians back to work.

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the Hon. Member has been all this time. The Government has supported a substantial number of new ideas with respect to exploration. We welcome his sudden and latest advice with respect to this particular project.

Mr. Lalonde: Your Leader is against Arctic development.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: What about your Leader?

Mr. Lumley: Also I want to indicate to the Hon. Member that there is more exploration going on in Canada right now than at any particular time in any other country of the world. The Hon. Member is totally wrong and totally incorrect in his preamble. With respect to the particular project, we will give it our usual analysis and thrust if we think it is important for Canadians.