

Oral Questions

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, far from it being a regular occurrence, the service throughout our department has improved quite considerably over the last two or three years. I answered the first question dealing with the difficulties that the hon. member pointed out and I am quite prepared to accept that, but over time we have improved the service. Not only that, the programs we have put in place are programs that enable people to get back to work faster and to get trained for other jobs. Even in the Atlantic region which the hon. member represents, where I recognize there are particular difficulties, there is a mismatch between the training that people have and the jobs that are available because there are some jobs available. I would point out that in the month of March across Canada, there were 2,000 more jobs than there were the month before. There was an increase in the unemployment rate because of more people coming into the labour force.

To reinforce what my colleague said about the economy turning around, we are seeing more jobs being created and there were more created last month.

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DE HAVILLAND

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Aerospatiale, which is part of the consortium that is going to purchase de Havilland, already had its president as its official lobbyist in Canada. On April 5 Fred Doucet became an official registered lobbyist for Aerospatiale.

Could the Deputy Prime Minister tell us what possible advantage Aerospatiale could expect to gain by having a former fundraiser for the Prime Minister, a former chief of staff, and in fact a man who got married at 24 Sussex Drive, as its official lobbyist?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, that question would be more appropriately addressed to Aerospatiale. He can certainly phone them up and ask them. I think that would give him the best answer.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, we are in a nation where there is a great deal of distrust and questioning about the political process. The

whole country is, and the Deputy Prime Minister knows that.

I think they would be wondering whether there is more concern about producing jobs for the Prime Minister's cronies than the 26,000 people who are going to be affected by this purchase.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am sure the hon. member has a direct question to pose to one of the ministers.

Mr. McCurdy: Yes, Madam Speaker. Is the Deputy Prime Minister aware of whether or not this close friend of the Prime Minister has in fact approached the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, or the Prime Minister, to discuss with him how they are going to preserve those 26,000 jobs that are likely to be affected by the de Havilland purchase, or is it in fact more important to see that the former Conservative cronies get jobs?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I really cannot add any more to the obvious answer provided by the Deputy Prime Minister, and that is to phone those who signed the contract, but I say to the hon. member that when the Prime Minister came into office he said he would bring in a lobbyist registration act. That has come into effect and is in force. It is that information that is now public and I would suggest that the hon. member work on the basis of that type of knowledge rather than the kind of innuendo which he is so capable of throwing around here.

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• (1130)

BANKRUPTCY ACT

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

It has been seven years now that this government has promised improvements to the Bankruptcy Act of Canada. God knows, we have waited for decades of successive Liberal governments to bring in appropriate changes to the Bankruptcy Act of this country that would give a measure of justice to those workers who have lost their jobs and to those suppliers who have not been paid as a result of bankruptcies.

Yesterday, after six months in office—