

*Oral Questions*INQUIRY IF TRUMP PROGRAM WORK CAN BE ADVANCED AND  
PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF *CARIBOU II* FORWARDED  
IMMEDIATELY

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister says that the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion looked after the shipyards.

Last week I went to take pictures of the Lauzon and Sorel shipyards. There is nothing there, no ships, no workers. People want work, not social welfare, not unemployment insurance. Any work done in shipyards comes from the federal Government.

First, can the Prime Minister rise to defend the interests of Quebecers and ask his Minister of Defence to get work started without delay on the TRUMP contract—four ships—which might create more than 6,000 jobs in Quebec, and second, make sure that Marine Atlantic officials immediately forward the *Caribou II* construction plans? That is what people want.

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the process described by the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie is exactly the one followed by his government before we came on the scene and saw the unimaginable mess in the shipyards.

**Mr. Malépart:** The shipyards were busy then, but now they are idle.

**Mr. Bouchard:** Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat that Canadians did pass judgment on the economic policy of the previous administration. This is history now. Given the national debt and the economic situation we found ourselves in, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion suggested that the shipbuilding industry might need to be rationalized. That is what we are doing and the process is well under way. As to employment in Quebec, we have created hundreds of thousands of jobs, and this is the lesson you should bear in mind.

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● (1500)

[English]

## VIA RAIL

## ACQUISITION OF ROLLING STOCK

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister with respect to what I hope is not another broken promise by the Government. It is my understanding that the Government has decided not to purchase new rolling stock for VIA Rail but that it will buy third-hand equipment in the United States and that it will spend \$200 million refurbishing the existing rolling stock. Will the Prime Minister confirm this or will he say that it is not true? If it is true, can he tell us why the Government has decided to abandon the jobs of over 1,000 men and women in Montreal and Thunder Bay?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport is seized with this particular issue. I can tell the Hon. Member that a statement will be made on this whole issue in the very near future.

## PROMISE OF NEW ROLLING STOCK

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Deputy Prime Minister. When members of his Government were running for office they promised new rolling stock for VIA Rail. Is the Deputy Prime Minister saying that the announcement that will be made is that the Government will renege on this promise, therefore putting 1,000 people out of jobs in Montreal and Thunder Bay for a year and a half to three years? Is that what he is saying?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member will know that some 705,000 new jobs have been created during the course of this Government's tenure in office.

I can tell the Hon. Member we did live up to most of the promises that were made with respect to VIA Rail, and we restored a number of services. We have purchased new locomotives. The issue of the rolling stock is still being considered. The Hon. Member is quite well aware that we have tried to work through a consortium to try to arrive at a deal that will be fair to all concerned. It has not been an easy process. It is very expensive. I think the Hon. Member will recognize that we will use whatever funding is available in the best manner possible. That is what the Minister of Transport is doing right now.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys, one question, please.

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## PETRO-CANADA

## PRICE CHARGED FOR GASOLINE

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Public Utilities Board of Nova Scotia in its report ordered the oil companies to roll back their prices with respect to gasoline, home heating oil, and diesel oil by the amount of 2.5 cents per litre. This indicates that at least in the Province of Nova Scotia the major oil companies led by Petro-Canada have been over-charging consumers. Will the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources order Petro-Canada to reduce its prices correspondingly in other provinces so that those provinces which are not protected by public utility boards can pass along a savings to their consumers? If not, why not?