Oral Questions

INDUSTRY

REQUEST THAT BELL HELICOPTER DOCUMENTATION BE TABLED

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Considering our interest in the Bell Helicopter project and the major Government investment involved, could the Minister give the House the assurance that he is prepared to table all agreements that were signed, all commitments and the cost of the studies, to inform all concerned across Canada?

[*English*]

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member wants to dispute the location of the plant, perhaps—

Mr. Nielsen: We want the documents.

Mr. Lumley: —he should write a letter to the chairman of the Bell Helicopter Corporation and have him tell the Hon. Member why he chose Mirabel.

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CANADA LABOUR CODE

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROVISIONS—RECOMMENDED EXTENSION TO PUBLIC SERVICE

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Labour and relates to the so-called "Black Paper" published by the Public Service Alliance of Canada, dealing with issues of occupational health and safety as they affect the Public Service. The first and likely principal recommendation contained in that paper was that the provisions of the Canada Labour Code, in so far as they apply to health and safety, be extended to the Public Service. What is the Minister's general reaction, and his specific reaction to that principal recommendation?

[*Translation*]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree, in principle, with this recommendation. I am sure my colleague and neighbour, the President of the Treasury Board, who has a responsibility for public service employees, has the same objectives in mind, and I trust there will be a solution in the form of legislation when we introduce amendments to the Canada Labour Code.

● (1500)

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the President of the Treasury Board. His Department has been historically and traditionally the opponent of the extension of those provisions, mainly for legal and technical, if not specious, reasons. All other jurisdictions have circumvented these technical and legal objections. Has the President of the Treasury Board and his Department now come around to the view that the Canada Labour Code provisions dealing with occupational health and safety should in fact be extended to the entire Public Service?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend will look at the Throne Speech which was presented to this Parliament on December 7 he will see a commitment by the Government to take steps to have standards apply to the federal public servants equivalent to those applying to workers under the jurisdiction of the Canada Labour Code.

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THE BUDGET

REQUEST DOCUMENTATION BE TABLED

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain indicated he wanted to raise a point of order at this point.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, you will recall early in Question Period, during an exchange between the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) and the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney), the Minister of Finance made reference to documentation which was submitted to him by the Leader of the Official Opposition prior to his election to the House of Commons. Is the Minister of Finance in a position to table those documents, given that they would clearly influence the public debate on the question of the Budget?

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order. If the Minister of Finance wants to make a statement on the matter it would be permitted.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the letter was not sent to me but to my officials. It was sent to the Department and I have had an indication from the Leader of the Opposition that he is agreeable to the release of the letter. I will be very happy to table it as soon as possible.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. BEATTY—ALLEGED MISLEADING STATEMENTS BY MR. BUSSIÈRES—RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Beatty) raised a question of privilege on December 21, 1983, prior to the Christmas recess, alleging that officials of Revenue Canada, in not informing the responsible Minister of certain facts, have caused him to misinform the House and that subsequently the Minister did not attempt to correct the record. The Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe also raised a separate question of privilege on Monday, January 16, 1984. Since the latter question of privilege was