

are in operation and are handling those products as planned. The full capacity of that mining development has not yet been realized, but there is confidence that it will be.

Mr. Skelly: Get your cue cards. You have the wrong hole.

Mr. Nystrom: He is talking about the wrong mine.

Mr. Layton: With regard to the arrangements and good will that exist between this Government and the B.C. authorities, I can assure the Hon. Member personally, Mr. Speaker, that in my dealings with the provincial Minister of Mines we are very confident the working relationships between our Governments will bring benefits to the citizens of British Columbia.

* * *

[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE

FEDERAL UNIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board.

Last April 17, the President of the Treasury Board made a major statement in the House concerning four points under negotiation with federal labour unions. He stated there was agreement with labour on a master agreement, a dental plan, a revised pension plan and improved workforce adjustment procedures. Now we learn that the largest union, the Public Service Alliance, simply refuses to endorse the agreements—or to go along with the other unions—and rejects both the revised pension plan and the dental plan.

May I ask the Minister what he is going to do now that the largest union has refused to go along with that decision?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): As everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, what I announced was an agreement in principle which was to be submitted for concurrence to each union and, in our case, to the Cabinet. Quite obviously one of the 14 unions has revised its position since last month. I therefore intend to sit down with them for a new bargaining round, hopefully to reach agreement on issues raised in recent years which are of interest to our Public Service employees.

[English]

PENSION NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the President of the Treasury Board. There are two other items of the four remaining. I take it the Minister is telling us that he is going to proceed with those two items.

On the question of pensions, is the Minister willing to go back to the table now with Mr. Samson and others, Mr.

Oral Questions

Donegani and the two main unions, to discuss other modalities with them, since they have refused his plan as it is now?

[Translation]

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the only answer I can give to that question is that, apparently, one of the unions is experiencing internal problems. I have no intention of getting involved. However, anytime Mr. Samson or representatives of the Alliance want to sit down with me, my door is wide open and they simply have to give me a call—as I told them at the very beginning. I will be pleased to sit down with them to see how things are going.

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[English]

INDUSTRY

MITEL CORPORATION—TAKEOVER BY FOREIGN COMPANY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns Mitel, a Canadian high-tech corporation with a very high international reputation. The Prime Minister will know that tens of millions of taxpayers' moneys have gone into direct grants to develop this high-tech company. Furthermore, tens of millions of dollars in tax relief have gone to support the development of this high-tech company. It is now about to fall into foreign hands. Is the Government prepared to step in and take action, and will the Prime Minister use his supreme authority to stop this particular takeover?

[Translation]

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, Mitel is now negotiating. We know what is going on. We are monitoring the situation very closely. The interests of Canadians, the Government's investment in the company, the millions of dollars that have been invested in Mitel, all this will be watched very closely, and we have things under control.

● (1200)

[English]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I have a short supplementary question. Is the Minister saying that the Government will not allow the takeover to occur of this critical Canadian corporation which, in a sense, is a world leader in the development of telecommunications technology? Is he prepared to say that the Government will not allow this Canadian company to fall into foreign hands? Be specific.

[Translation]

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, the agreement between Mitel and the Federal Government includes an agreement on non-transferable technology. We know exactly what this agreement con-