

Mr. Rodriguez: —to have his department investigate the French experience so as to get all the facts about the actions of the French government with respect to stockpiling and report same to the cabinet which will have to make a support decision?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the wild allegations and the stridency of the hon. member will help the situation one little bit. If he wants to play politics with the people of Sudbury, that is his business. We are interested in trying to help the people of Sudbury.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillespie: We do not think that the wild allegations and exaggerations regarding the impact on the city of Sudbury will help the city of Sudbury. We are quite prepared to look at any constructive suggestions which come forward, including the possibility that there may be something in the French experience from which we can borrow to assist in this very difficult situation.

Mr. Rodriguez: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has addressed a question to the Minister of Labour and two questions to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Mr. Rodriguez: I had two supplementaries.

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● (1427)

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

POSSIBILITY OF DECLARING OUTAOUAIS REGION DESIGNATED AREA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. As no new manufacturing industry of consequence, that is with more than 20 employees, has settled in the Quebec part of the Ottawa region since 1973 because that area is no longer designated by DREE, and as regional organizations such as the CRO, the SAO, the municipalities and the OPDQ are in favour of its designation, might I ask the minister whether he intends to make a statement in the near future to the effect that the Outaouais region in Quebec has been designated by DREE?

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the hon. member that I have personally met the authorities of the Outaouais region with my colleagues in this House, the hon. members for Gatineau, Hull and Pontiac. We have met those people and discussed the matter with them. Those three hon. members have described the situation to me on several occasions and my department has also looked into the over-all situation in the

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Outaouais region. We have considered the possibility of intervening and are now considering it; I trust that within coming weeks, or possibly months, we will be in a position to announce a decision.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, as the minister seems to be in the process of studying the problem now, could he tell us what credits or specific assistance might be provided, and how they compare with the millions that could be invested in the area?

Mr. Lessard: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to indicate now how much money would be allotted by my department to the development of the Outaouais region, but I am quite pleased to see that the Outaouais region as well as the hon. member support the interventions of DREE and recognize that those interventions are very justifiable.

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[English]

FINANCE

MEASURES TO REVERSE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The outflow of Canadian investment capital has not been matched by an inflow of foreign capital. In fact, during the third quarter foreigners actually reduced the value of their holdings in Canada by \$20 million. Will the minister be presenting any legislation, or what action will he be taking so that Canada will once again be an attractive country in which to invest money?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the hon. member is suggesting that we should control the flow of money which comes into or goes out of Canada. I am not advocating such a policy.

Mr. McKenzie: I hope the minister is not going to wait until the cupboard is bare. The United States government and the governments of individual states are openly soliciting and assisting Canadian businesses to move to the United States. What is the minister going to do to counter this irreversible trend?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I think Canada will remain a very favourable place in which to invest. Many people want to invest in Canada. The hon. member does not seem to have great faith in Canada, but he should read what was written in the newspapers on Monday about the Canadian economic picture for next year as it was predicted by the Conference Board in New York which said that Canada would outperform the United States and every other country except Japan.

Mr. Stevens: What about the Conference Board of Canada?