

Oral Questions

GST Public Relations Information Office, staffing and office space would amount to about \$3 million.

How much of the remaining \$16 million will be spent on the government's GST propaganda?

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member talks about uninformed or misinformed. I think there is no one who has spoken on this matter in this House who is more misinformed than the hon. member who just asked the question.

The fact of the matter is that Mr. Murray, a consumer advocate for many years, is a very good choice on the part of the government. In the interest of consumers he took it upon himself to offer his resignation last evening.

I talked to him this morning and he said this to me: "The most important thing in my mind is to serve the consumer to the best of my ability as head of the Consumer Information Office and I will be able to do just that".

There is no propaganda. There is no misinformation. What this is, is to support—

Mr. Bellemare: You should work for Barnum and Bailey.

Mr. Jelinek: If you would keep your mouth shut and your ears open you would learn something.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. minister may want to conclude his answer by speaking through the Chair.

Mr. Jelinek: Madam Speaker, this is character assassination by the hon. member of Mr. Murray. On the part of the Government of Canada this is supplementing the market-place which will allow consumer prices to be passed on to consumers, providing the information that is necessary and required by consumers across this country.

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EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for small business. It concerns the shutting down of Fruehauf Canada Limited, which was announced earlier this week, terminating 334 jobs. This morning Solaray in Brantford

announced it is shutting down permanently, throwing 125 more people on to the unemployment lists.

In both cases it was brought to my attention that it was caused by a combination of high interest rates, deregulation in the trucking industry and the free trade deal. The president of Fruehauf Canada Limited blamed the free trade deal publicly. He said it is because there is no such thing as a level playing field between the Canadian and American manufacturers.

The minister knows that a nation that loses its ability to make things, to manufacture, loses its ability to survive. What in God's name is this government going to do to stop this ridiculous decline in the manufacturing industry in Canada?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, in terms of what the government is going to do immediately, we have a full range of assistance programs which we will be making available. More important in the broader context, we have a consolidation of Fruehauf. It is moving from Brantford to Ingersoll. The consolidation is occurring in Canada. It is not occurring elsewhere.

There has been a slow-down in orders, which led to the original problem. The management made it clear that it was a slow-down in orders primarily, not the FTA, that was the problem.

More important, Madam Speaker, we must remember that in southern Ontario, from where the member comes, we have had endless openings, one after the other. Chrysler has had a \$400 million expansion. Stelco has had a multimillion dollar expansion. Freightliner has had an over \$100 million expansion, and there are 1,000 new jobs in CAMI just down the road from Brantford.

So things are strong in southern Ontario, thanks to the free trade agreement and thanks to the new competitiveness of our economy.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Madam Speaker, what the minister says is extremely misleading. The trucking industry in Canada was about 80 per cent Canadian-owned a year and a half ago. By the end of this year about 65 to 70 per cent of it will be owned by the Americans because of the free trade deal, and that includes the manufacturing of tractor trailers as well.

My supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In conversations with congressmen in Washington this week, I learned that they are extremely