

believe that Dr. Ostry would be taking a position in Washington. However, as the country and the House know, she is not only one of the most eminently outstanding economists in Canada but also in the world. It would not be surprising if there were an interest again, on the part of international institutions, in having her serve with them. As far as we are concerned, there is a very great interest by this Government in being in a position to be able to take advantage of her quite extraordinary services here.

[Translation]

FREE TRADE—NEGOTIATING TEAM—REPRESENTATION OF
WOMEN AND FRANCOPHONES

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister give the House an update or a progress report on the representation of women and Francophones at the Office for trade negotiations, on the task force that is examining free trade? Can he inform the House today that there has been some progress since we raised the matter a few weeks ago?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I can inform the Hon. Member that it is a matter of concern to me and to the Prime Minister, and as you know, there is a certain percentage, a certain level which is acceptable, but changes must be made, and that is what we are doing.

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[English]

NATIONAL PARKS

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK—INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN PLANT
SPECIES

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Despite reservations on the part of Parks Canada scientists in the field, the Minister appears to have upheld the decision by the previous Liberal Government to allow the CP to introduce up to 15 foreign plant species into Glacier National Park as part of its proposed reclamation project associated with double tracking. Will the Minister reverse this decision and force CPR to use appropriate indigenous flora along its road-bed through Glacier National Park?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I believe this is the first time, unless the Hon. Member has written to me about it, that I have heard such a representation from the Member and his Party. I will take it under advisement and get back to him.

Mr. Blaikie: It may be the first time the Minister has heard from me, but he has heard about the issue before.

Oral Questions

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, if it is government policy not to turn lions, elephants, and cobras loose in our national parks, why should we allow CP to pollute the unique vegetation of Glacier National Park in order to save a few dollars? Will he take his responsibility as Minister of the Environment seriously and make sure that we do not pollute the natural vegetation of our Glacier National Park in the financial interests of the CPR?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I will take the Hon. Member's representation as one well expressed and vigorously put to the House. His position seems reasonable. I do not know all of the details surrounding the case but I will look into them and get back to the Hon. Member at the earliest possible opportunity.

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[Translation]

SHIPYARDS

CONSTRUCTION OF ALGONQUIN VESSEL IN MONTREAL—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. This morning I was talking to Mr. Beaubien, the president of the union representing workers at Vickers, and he said that over a period of six weeks, 400 of the 650 workers had been laid off, and these workers would like to know, and that is my question, whether the Minister is prepared to meet the commitment he made on December 4 in Ottawa, at a meeting, when he guaranteed that the *Algonquin*, the first ship in the Trump Program, would be built by the shipyards in Montreal, a commitment that was made in the presence of Mr. Paul Saunders, president of Versatile Vickers.

[English]

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, there has never been an absolute guarantee of any work going to any shipyard without proper provision being made for tenders and so on. In the interim, the TRUMP program was announced by my colleague, the Associate Minister of National Defence. That includes the *Algonquin*. As my colleague indicated, that vessel is going to the Davie shipyard.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER SOLVE SITUATION OF VERSATILE
VICKERS EMPLOYEES IN MONTREAL

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, if I understood the Minister correctly, and the employees who were watching, the Minister admits he cannot keep his commitments and that these people will remain unemployed all summer.