

Oral Questions

[English]

NATIONAL HEALTH**CLOSURE OF CENTRE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House of what the Government is doing to the future viability of occupational health and safety research in Canada. The Government is in the process of closing the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety located in Hamilton. The centre will be progressively stripped of its \$10 million in annual federal financing by 1991.

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety has been an invaluable source of information for labour groups, management, government, health and safety organizations, the media and educational institutions. The Government has lost complete control of its collective senses. It believes the centre could eventually end up as a free-standing private institution operating on a non-profit basis or on a for-profit basis. Does the Government really think businesses will donate funds to the centre for the purpose of investigating their own shortcomings?

This is a time when most Canadians require as much information as possible about the safety and conditions of the work environment. To dismantle or privatize the centre would be irresponsible and callous. I urge the Minister of Labour (Mr. Cadieux) to wake up to the realities—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**INTERIOR BARRIERS THERETO—REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

Mr. Al Johnson (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, with the Free Trade Agreement with the United States in place, it is now time for the Government of Canada and the Governments of the provinces and territories to make a comprehensive review of all the interior barriers that have been set up that prevent free trade within Canada.

Canada's coal industry is particularly concerned that federal and provincial diesel fuel taxes for mining and

transportation of low sulphur coal from western Canada to Ontario can amount to as much as \$2.50 per tonne. This puts our clean western coal at a disadvantage to American coal which does not face such taxation and which is being introduced into southern Ontario. I urge the Government to review this matter as soon as possible and to take steps to remove all such barriers to trade within Canada.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**THE BUDGET****TIMING OF KNOWLEDGE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, for 33 days the Government has misled Parliament. At 1.30 p.m. on April 27, the President of the Mutual Life Assurance Company advised the office of the Minister of Finance that his company had been in possession of the *Budget in Brief* for three days. The Deputy Prime Minister, who is here today, and I both know how the system works.

Mr. Fred Gorbet, the Deputy Minister of Finance, was advised of the second leak. Surely Mr. Gorbet must have immediately informed his Minister, the Minister of Finance. It is frankly inconceivable to me that he did not.

Paul Tellier, the Clerk of the Privy Council, and Stanley Hartt, the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, must also have been informed almost immediately. Surely they would have told both the Prime Minister and the chief of operations, the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, but the Minister of Finance says that he was not informed until later in the afternoon after Question Period.

If this is so, on whose authority was the Minister of Finance not informed? Surely senior officials would not have taken this upon their responsibility alone. Exactly when was the Deputy Prime Minister himself advised of this second leak, and did he order officials not to inform the Minister of Finance?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition's assertions about misleading the House are