

*Oral Questions*

that would apply with any optimism for a government handout or a government pledge of \$34 million, or even a lesser amount, is a service industry that would fit these qualifications: one so mismanaged that the Government insisted on a new chief executive officer; one in such a precarious financial position that government officials advised against any government involvement; the majority of whose employees are in the United States and are not citizens of Canada; and one that is a friend of the Liberal Party? Is that the bottom line for service industries in this country to apply to the Government for aid?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, I get the impression from the questions coming from the Official Opposition in the past two weeks that they are looking forward to having the Maislin Corporation go under. As a fellow Member of Parliament I find that attitude unacceptable, and regret that the concern for the jobs at stake is not taken more seriously by Hon. Members. I expect a little more from them in this regard.

## NUMBER OF JOBS PROVIDED BY MAISLIN

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Madam Speaker, I too have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. We all have trucking companies in our constituencies and they all need help, but only one got help. That is the point.

Earlier this week the Minister advised the House that, like a lot of other trucking companies, Maislin is experiencing financial difficulty. But Maislin was the only trucking company to get assistance, presumably on the basis of the number of jobs that would save. Can the Minister confirm or deny to the House that, of the 2,000 jobs mentioned in his predecessor's press release of July 31, only 800 remain in Canada?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, I will check that question and get back to the Hon. Member with the specific number of jobs involved.

## FINANCIAL POSITION OF MAISLIN

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Madam Speaker, earlier this week the Leader of the Opposition asked the Minister to inform himself about the financial stability of Maislin, and then inform the House. Media reports indicate that Maislin has been making monthly and quarterly statements to the Minister's Department. Can he tell the House what the financial situation of Maislin is in regard to profits or losses in the last quarter, from October 1 to December 31, 1982, so that the House, and the taxpayers of Canada who have bailed out Maislin, may know what the situation actually is?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is a chartered accountant, a profession for which I have a great deal of respect. As such,

he knows that Maislin must publish an annual statement according to the law of this country. When that statement is issued, everyone in Canada will be able to see the financial figures.

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS WITH MAISLIN

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, in an article in today's *Financial Post* a government source is quoted as saying:

We're talking to the company almost every day and see them about twice a month—

If that is the case, surely the Minister can inform the House whether the company is suffering continued losses. Can he not go that far and inform the House of the health or non-health of the taxpayers' \$34 million investment in the company?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, as the Leader of the Official Opposition knows, Maislin is a public corporation. Their shares are traded on the stock exchange and as such they will be making their corporate financial statements public, as required by law. With his years of experience, the Hon. Member knows that. I do not think it is either appropriate or responsible for me, as a Minister of the Crown, to make those corporate financial statements public when it is provided under the law, under the Canada Corporations Act, I believe, that the company must do so.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Madam Speaker, I am not asking the Minister to make financial statements available now. I am following up on the line of questioning of yesterday and today. Surely the Minister has to take a sufficient interest in the taxpayers' \$34 million to keep himself informed of the stability of the company? All he is doing by that kind of answer is stonewalling.

## INQUIRY RESPECTING LOSSES

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, the *Financial Post* article goes on to say:

There is no lack of acknowledgment by government spokesmen that close tabs are being kept on the company—

If that is the case, why will the Minister not inform us of the extent of the losses of this company on a month-by-month basis? I suggest that he knows what those losses are and he is not informing the taxpayers who put up \$34 million to bail out the company.

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** As I said to the Hon. Member the other day, Madam Speaker, we treat this case very seriously because of the Government guarantees and also because of the job creation element. I also think my responses should be much more responsible than that, since we have a public corporation whose shares are traded on the stock exchange. It would be irresponsible to