

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his question. Of course, the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act is enforced at the present time, and through the inspector responsible we ordered the car in question to remain in Senneterre until samples are taken of the substances which do not seem to be dangerous, but the car will not be allowed to leave the switching yard before we get the results of the analysis of the samples we have taken.

\* \* \*

**TOURISM****IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTBACKS**

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism. The cuts in the Government tourism promotion budget and the new taxes which increase the costs of the Canadian tourism industry are very disturbing and certainly negative for that sector. To that we must add the VIA Rail cutbacks which will aggravate the disastrous consequences for the tourism industry.

Can the Minister tell us why he could not convince his Cabinet colleagues of the disastrous consequences of these cuts on Canada's most important industry?

[English]

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. It gives me the opportunity to remind the House that in ten years tourism will probably be the largest industry in Canada. In fact, it has been increasing enormously over the past five years, to the tune of over 10 per cent per year.

The provinces and the federal Government met last week on this subject. We are finding that there are opportunities that have never been pursued before—certainly not by previous Governments—such as co-operative advertising with the provinces and the private sector to give us more exposure, not less.

**TOURIST INDUSTRY CUTS**

**Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre):** Mr. Speaker, I had a supplementary question but after hearing an answer like that I won't bother.

The Government's budget for tourist development has been cut. The budget of the tourist industry in Canada has been cut because of the Government's activities. Members of the industry have told me that. How does less plus less equal more?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear hear!

[Translation]

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, we could do a lot more if there was more co-operation in this country between the tourism industry, the provinces and the federal Government. We could then do a lot more.

\* \* \*

[English]

**INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION****GRANT TO VIFAN**

**Mr. Lyle Vancilief (Prince Edward—Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology.

Mobil Chemicals in Belleville, Ontario employs 250 workers and has an \$11 million payroll.

Mobil's \$70 million investment, without government grants, has made it the leader in the industry whose total production capacity is only 80 per cent utilized.

How can the Government justify a \$5.7 million grant to Vifan, an Italian owned company, to establish a plant in the riding of the President of the Treasury Board producing the same product as Mobil?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member being new here is probably not aware—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Andre:** —that if he wants detailed answers like that in Question Period he should give warning. It is part of the tradition of the House. I would have prepared the information.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!