

*Oral Questions*

the previous administration, this government has dealt effectively with the situation which has developed on the Island of Montreal over the past few years.

As a first step, the government passed a legislation dealing with pharmaceuticals which the opposition had fought tooth and nail and which now represents nearly \$700 million in investments on the Island of Montreal.

Something the hon. member for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville might be unaware of, this government has contributed to the prosperity of the riding she lives and works in by granting \$43 million to Canadair to help this corporation get involve in the production of the stretched Jet liner and create 2,000 new jobs in that industry.

The government I represent has located in the Montreal area the Space Agency which should be worth \$3 billion to the Montreal economy over the next few years and which, as recently as last Friday, awarded a contract to the Spar Aerospace corporation in Montreal, resulting in some \$140 million investments in that area.

When one considers the situation now with what it was previously, Mr. Speaker, one realizes that the level of unemployment is much lower on the Montreal Island.

**Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville):** Mr. Speaker, I wish I had as much time as the minister!

By the way, most drug manufacturers are based in Toronto.

I should like to know why Mr. Picard, the author of the report, has seen fit to focus on the inaction of the very government that commissioned his report. Just what does the government plan to do in the immediate future to implement the Picard report recommendations?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, our government will continue to do the excellent job it has been doing in recent years. Again I would remind the seemingly forgetful Member for Saint-Laurent that our government made a major contribution towards the establishment of an agency called CITEC in her riding.

With respect to Montreal East, Mr. Speaker, which happens to be the island's worse off sector as a result of years of neglect on the part of our colleagues opposite,

last year we invested \$13 million in the Industrial Recovery Program for East End Montreal which attracted private sector investments of \$65 million.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat in the House that, contrary to Mr. Picard's statement, a man whose professional credentials I duly acknowledge, the federal government is not primarily responsible for the economic recovery of the Island of Montreal. The impetus should originate from local circles and we intervene only to grease the wheels, not to set them in motion.

\* \* \*

[English]

**THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Before the election in October, 1988, the Prime Minister made several very strong statements. He said on October 15, "We are prepared to subject every federal undertaking and every undertaking on federal lands to a full environmental impact study". On October 20, he said: "No area is higher on our environmental priority list than the Great Lakes themselves". On October 1, he said: "We stand for a cleaner, safer environment".

In the Throne Speech, this government's last Throne Speech, we were told, and I quote: "The world itself is facing an environmental challenge of unprecedented magnitude". These are serious words but there is no serious action. This government is doing nothing. It now appears that even the Minister of the Environment does not have the support of his colleagues. I ask the Deputy Prime Minister, when will he give this House a firm deadline for the introduction of the government's environmental plan?

**Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, as I think all members of the House know, it is exceedingly important that this country have the kind of legislation in place which will ensure that decisions of government respecting the environment made in the future will have clarity and certainty with respect to the responsibilities of this