

Oral Questions

recognize that sales of all types of motor cars have fallen off as a consequence of the downturn in the economy and as a consequence of energy costs as well.

However, the question of the number of vehicles being imported into this country from Japan is a matter of discussion between Japanese officials and our officials. As well, representations in relation to the utilization of parts from Canadian parts manufacturers in Japanese cars is another very topical and, in my view, important subject.

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MINES AND MINING**REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDER STOCKPILING PROGRAM**

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Mines. As the Hon. Minister already knows, the city of Sudbury, which already has 28.5 per cent of its work force unemployed, learned today that another 1,050 workers who were scheduled to go back to work in April will never be recalled.

In an international struggle to secure larger shares of the world market, Canadian workers are the primary victims as their jobs disappear with Canada's declining share of the market. In order to halt this devastation of the Canadian industry and the lives of workers in communities like Sudbury, if the Minister will not consider taking Inco and Falconbridge into public ownership, will she consider a proposal to provide price support or stockpiling incentives to Canadian producers until world prices begin to recover, in the long-term interest of securing our markets in the world and jobs for our workers in Canada?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, the answer is no. I would suggest to the Hon. Member that he consult with the Leader of the New Democratic Party, because it was the Leader of the New Democratic Party who said he would have to consider very carefully all proposals, and was leery of endorsing a stockpiling program.

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AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT**ACCOUNTABILITY OF CROWN CORPORATIONS—NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION**

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. The Auditor General's Report, which was tabled today, complains of a lack of accountability in the more than 300 Crown Corporations. He refers to them as a sub-government which employs 263,000 people and spends \$33 billion. Six years after the Auditor General reported weak and ineffective financial management and control, and in spite of recommendations by the Public Accounts Committee, which is an all-party committee controlled by Government Members, the

Auditor General now reports that, "The legislative framework urgently required is still not in place."

Where is the proper Crown Corporation legislation, and when will it be debated? I hope the Minister will not use Bill C-123 as an example, because that Bill was introduced over five months ago. It is an omnibus bill and has not had one word of debate in the House.

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, Bill C-123 does contain an important section which is designed to address concerns on both sides of the House over the need for a stronger framework of accountability with respect to Crown Corporations. I am informed by my colleague, the House Leader, that he has been holding discussions with House Leaders of Opposition Parties about the possibility of dividing Bill C-123 so that the portion with respect to Government reorganization and the portion with respect to Crown Corporations could be debated separately. I hope that the Government House Leader and his colleagues will soon reach a mutually acceptable understanding on proceeding with this matter at an early date.

Mr. Clarke: The Minister's predecessor and the Auditor General know very well that even that part of Bill C-123 does not address the problems described by the Auditor General.

DEBATE ON LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Madam Speaker, what we need is legislation that will deal correctly and properly with classification, the comprehensive audit, the appointment of auditors, and the duties and reporting abilities of auditors of Crown Corporations. When will we get those measures?

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I do not necessarily agree with my hon. friend that Bill C-123 does not address these issues, particularly when one looks also at the accompanying policy directive. At the same time, we can certainly consider the very useful recommendations of the Auditor General further and in depth when we are ready to proceed with discussion of the Crown Corporation section of Bill C-123. I hope that there will be an early mutually satisfactory conclusion to the discussions between House Leaders on this matter so that we can soon turn our attention to it.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**CHEMICAL POLLUTION OF LAKE ONTARIO-NIAGARA RIVER BASIN**

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. The Minister will know that there was a very recent discouraging report issued by the New York State Department of Health, stating that contamination by toxic chemicals in the Lake