

### Oral Questions

last summer it stated the following in regard to what the government had accomplished at Harbourfront:

The royal commission commends all three governments, the Government of Canada for leadership and the province, city and Harbourfront's board of directors for their co-operative support of the federal actions over the past year, and looks forward to the successful resolution of the Harbourfront situation.

**Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River):** Mr. Speaker, I would say that the leadership is somewhat in doubt. The government says its actions are consistent with the McKeough report. Harbourfront's own directors do not agree with the McKeough report, city of Toronto council did not, and metro council wrote to this Parliament just three weeks ago to say that it had not been fully consulted, and objected.

Who is the minister trying to snow here about this agreement? He is not fooling the people of metropolitan Toronto. Why won't he take some action to safeguard Harbourfront's cultural programming and facilities and block this windfall to developers which will come right out of the taxpayers' pocket?

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Mr. Speaker, the recommendation of the royal commission was to move planned condominiums—which were put there by the previous government, I might say—off the waterfront. This has been accomplished through negotiations, through the McKeough report, and through the work of Duncan Allan with the provincial government, who was then adviser to the Liberal government who recommended this.

These follow the Liberal recommendations from the province. They support the city of Toronto, who get 40 acres of park handed to them, which has been developed by the federal government following a promise of the Liberal government back in 1973 that it would develop this area and then return it to the people of Toronto. That is exactly what this government has done.

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### INDUSTRY

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The minister knows that broken federal promises have killed Versatile Pacific and shipbuilding in British Columbia, laying off hundreds of workers who have no guarantees of severance pay, no adjustment compensation or retraining. He also should know that Polish crews are doing repair jobs at Versatile which should be done by Canadians.

Will any federal help be forthcoming to save Versatile since the government cancelled the *Polar 8* ice-breaker and has invested literally millions in the past which will be lost?

Will he also look into the protections and benefits for displaced workers who confronted him last week?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** The hon. member should be reminded that since 1985 VPSI has been awarded approximately a quarter of a billion dollars in Government of Canada contracts to begin with. At present this company, as she knows, owned by Shieldings, is experiencing financial difficulties and has sought protection from its creditors. There is over-capacity in this industry; the government has a policy to deal with that. We have asked this company to step forward with a viable plan. They have not done so as yet.

But what we want to do is to see those properties properly used so these people can be employed. The government stands ready with an offer, our offer is still on the table as well as our adjustment programs for the ship workers.

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### AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

The Canadian Honey Council is concerned that the Minister of Agriculture appears prepared to allow the importation of Hawaiian honey bee queens this spring, even though there is an import ban on U.S. bees until December 31, 1991.

What assurance can the minister give Canadian honey producers that these Hawaiian queens will be free of the varroa mite, tracheal mite and other bee pests?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** I am sure the hon. member is aware that since the closure of the Canadian border to the importation of honey bees for Canadian use as a result of the infestation of the tracheal and varroa mites, it has created a hardship and indeed a difficulty for many beekeepers, particularly in the Peace River district in northern Alberta. They have made strong representations to allow the importation of bees from Hawaii which are not infested with the tracheal and varroa mite. In that connection, we commissioned a group of experts from