

Oral Questions
EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST THAT SAWMILLS BE REOPENED

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration. As the Minister is certainly aware, the economic situation on Quebec's North Shore is critical, especially in the forest industry. For instance, in the village of Sacré-Cœur, the main employer, a lumber mill, closed down 16 months ago, leaving well over 400 workers without jobs. This is a modern plant manned by young and qualified workers. Now that the sales in this sector are going up again, does the Minister intend to meet with the management of this plant and others in similar situations so that operations may resume in that area?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Hon. Member for asking his question in French and showing such interest in the fate of French-speaking Quebecers on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River. I can tell him that I would certainly be very anxious to deal with this situation. I wonder whether it would be better for me to meet personally with the people concerned, but I could and would like to have talks with the officials and this could be considered a preliminary step before holding an actual meeting. Indeed, such a gathering may not be necessary if we find another way of solving the problem.

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FORESTRY

AUXILIARY OTTAWA-QUEBEC AGREEMENT

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Minister responsible for Forestry. Where is the Minister, please? The auxiliary agreement between Quebec and Ottawa—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! Supplementaries should be directed to the same Minister. Hon. Members are not entitled to direct another question to another Minister.

An Hon. Member: Rightly so!

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary, not another question.

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Speaker, my question is on the same subject and is addressed to the Minister concerned.

The auxiliary Quebec-Ottawa forestry agreement involving an amount of \$300 million expired a few weeks ago. Can the Minister tell us—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member is striving to ask another question.

[English]

NATIONAL REVENUE

TAX STATUS OF TORONTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S
MUSICIANS

Mr. David Weatherhead (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Musicians of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra have been very concerned about a recent National Revenue ruling stating that these musicians were employees and not self-employed. The Minister undertook to review this matter. Some time has passed. When will this review be completed?

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Hon. Member on his continuing interest in this matter. I am happy to tell Hon. Members that we have completed an in-depth review of the situation. Musicians in the Toronto Symphony Orchestra will maintain their self-employed status.

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AGRICULTURE

DELHI RESEARCH STATION—REQUEST FOR INCREASED
FUNDING

Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It pertains to the problem in the tobacco industry. The Minister knows the problem, and he knows the statistics. I do not have to tell him that there are some 8,000 to 10,000 jobs at stake here. He knows why the problem exists, one of the biggest factors being the taxation by the federal Government. Since the federal Government takes some \$1,140 million in taxation from the tobacco industry and returns some \$1.6 million to the research station in Delhi, and since most tobacco growers will have to go into some other crop in order to survive as they are pushed out of tobacco by the Government, is the Minister prepared to increase the funding and the manpower at the Delhi Agriculture Station in order that they can do some research into substitute crops for the tobacco industry?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows full well that in practically every province the provincial Government receives more revenue from cigarettes than the federal Government. He also knows full well that the Province of Ontario has as much responsibility to the tobacco industry as I do, if he is going to compare. Actually, we spend more on research. We spend more giving assistance through interest-free payments and advance payments on storable crops. The tobacco growers are able to take advantage of that program. We do much more for them than does the Province of Ontario. The Province of Ontario has the main responsibility.

The Hon. Member talked about research. He knows that we have demands, and that I could spend twice as much money on research in all of Canada. I would love to be able to do that. His Party continually tells us to cut back on expenditures,