

I would like to ask him whether he could explain, if we are doing so much better, why in the past 12 months Northern Telecom in Kingston had to lay off 60 people; why Honeywell Bull had to close in various provinces in the computer manufacturing section, 100 people; why Comterm in Montreal had to lay off 176 people in computer manufacturing; why Northern Telecom in Saint John had to lay off 120 people in telecommunications equipment; why STM Systems Corp. had to lay off 125 people in computer services; why Jonal and Ericson in Don Valley, Ontario, had to lay off 280 people last August in computer software; why Unisys in St. Laurent, Quebec, had to lay off 230 people in computer equipment?

And the list is far from being complete.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the first of my four questions.

The second question has to do with the great advantages of the free trade agreement to which the minister referred in his speech.

We would like to know on this side of the House where the 500,000 jobs are which were promised by this government at the time of the signing of the free trade agreement. I hope that in replying to this question, the minister will refrain from including hamburger-stand jobs.

Third, the minister on various occasions in his recovery speech made reference to market forces and the greatness of the market forces in which he believes.

Perhaps the minister might like to enlighten us as to why the market forces are not being applied in labour relations when it comes to the civil servants of the federal government.

Finally, the fourth question stemming from the minister's intervention is this: What is needed, according to the enlightened Minister of State for Finance and Privatization, is a substantial reduction in inflation and in Canadian inflationary expectations. These are his very own words.

This seems to me a rather sick joke, if the minister is implying that inflation is to be fought on the back of 10.2 per cent of unemployed Canadians today. Perhaps he might enlighten us on some of those points.

**Mr. McDermid:** First of all, the hon. member knows full well that his last statement was facetious and does

### *Supply*

not need any more comment than that. This government of course is not cutting back on the back of the 10.2 per cent who are unemployed today. We on this side feel as badly about it as anyone does. We have made that very clear, and that is why one of our largest expenditure increases in this fiscal year is unemployment insurance, to ensure that the safety net is there until the economy is back growing again.

• (1530 )

The hon. member knows full well about that. He talked about lay-offs. Yes, there have been lay-offs. There is no question that there have been lay-offs, and we do not take satisfaction in that either.

He rhymed off a number of companies that had lay-offs. I want to point out two things to him. I am going to rhyme off a number of companies that are increasing employment starting with I.E. Aerospace Canada in Winnipeg; in Mississauga, General Electric; in Thunder Bay, Earnway Industries; Trans-Alta Resources Corporation in Malton; Abitibi-Price in Manitoba; and Journal Printing of Sudbury.

I want to refer him to the study that was done by the Canada-West Foundation that said: "Canada increased high-tech's exports by \$4 billion since the deal while such imports from the United States fell by \$600 million". The study is there. It is an independent study. It is not a government study. It is an independent study.

I saw an article in the paper just the other day for McDonnell Douglas in our area, close to the area that he represents and close to the area that I represent. There was a request for 500 employees at McDonnell Douglas in Malton the other day. Of course, there are employment opportunities out there. There is no question about that.

One of the problems is that individuals like my hon. friend from Davenport have nothing positive to say about anything. All he does is stand up here, criticize and knock and put the country down. We support Canada. We work for Canada. We do not knock it down. We praise it and will continue to do so. I suggest the hon. member do the same.

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** I have a very simple question for the minister, Mr. Speaker.