

*Oral Questions*

The policies have been well stated, by myself and the Deputy, and they are in our public information. They are that we will not enter into assistance for competitive industries.

The New Democratic Party may want to pick winners and losers in competitive industries. The business men and women of Canada do not believe that the Government picking winners and losers in competitive industries is the best use of taxpayers' dollars, and I do not believe the taxpayers of Canada do either.

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I notice the Minister did not deal with the question. I will put it in the most straightforward way that I can.

Mr. Stanley Hartt, former Deputy Minister of Finance, has said: "We will have to find other unobjectionable ways", in terms of the deal, to provide industrial development assistance. He was referring to regional development programs in comparison with the deal.

Is the Minister now telling the people of Canada that Mr. Hartt was wrong, that the Government of Canada does not have to change its regional development programs? I want a clear answer. Does it have to change the regional development programs because of this deal or does it not?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification):**

No.

## POSITION OF MINISTERS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister explain why the Deputy Minister in charge of Western Diversification said yesterday, with reference to one particular sector, that there could be no development programs in that sector any more? The Deputy Minister of Finance actually read the deal and was talking about the negotiations that will go on for the next five to seven years and about what will no doubt constitute a subsidy. Why is it that these experts have one position and cabinet Ministers, who are trying to save their political hides, have another?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think Ministers or Members on this side have to worry about their political hides when people look at the alternatives that are being put forward.

I have already explained to the Hon. Member why Western Economic Diversification has been saying since it was formed that we will not be assisting competitive industries. We do not believe, and neither do people in the industry—and he can check with the red meat industry in western Canada—that

Governments should pick winners and losers in a competitive industry. When I said no, there is no need to change because of the free trade agreement, that is accurate.

The free trade agreement does not pose any obligations concerning subsidies that are not already there under the GATT. If we could assist, promote, and not have fear of countervail under GATT, then we can continue to assist, promote, and have no fear of countervail under free trade.

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● (1140)

## DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

## PCBS—PORT OF MONTREAL—SHIPPING AND STORAGE DEPOT

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I am not only a resident of Montreal, a mother and a grandmother, but I am privileged to be a Member of Parliament from the great city of Montreal. I was horrified to learn that the Port of Montreal which is federal land under federal jurisdiction is the largest storage and shipping depot in North America for PCB wastes.

In downtown Montreal, in the midst of three million people, there are hazardous wastes. My question to the Government is this.

**Mr. Lewis:** Charlie could have told you that.

**Mr. Crofton:** Too bad you didn't discover that when you were in office.

**An Hon. Member:** Why don't you answer the question, Charlie?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Mount Royal.

**Mrs. Finestone:** Mr. Speaker, we are talking about dangerous chemicals, if the bullies across the way would listen.

Unfortunately, we now know what could happen with this dangerous waste. Has the Minister made a recent check to ensure safe and secure handling of this material as it is shipped into Montreal and out of Montreal? If he has done so will he ensure that it is at the maximum, optimum level of safety? In the case of a PCB disaster, what kind of contingency plan does the Minister have to evacuate the city of Montreal?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I actually do not think that the Hon. Member adds much to this discussion and debate by resorting to such hysterical rhetoric. She says she takes great pride in representing Montreal, as she should. I do not know whether her constituents take such pride in her performance if she is so little aware of what is in her own riding.

**Mr. Nunziata:** You won't tell us, you fraud.