Oral Questions

An hon. member: Beer gardens are more orderly.

Mr. Crosbie: When I look across the aisle I see the answer is obvious. It is a beer garden.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. minister has the answer that is being sought.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, I can get up and read a list of expansions of companies. For example, Polysar Rubber Corporation is spending \$120 million at Sarnia—not far from the hon. member's area—over three years to modernize and improve environmental standards in its business.

B.F. Goodrich (Canada) Incorporated is expanding its Niagara Falls polyvinyl chloride plant. It is the start of a major capacity expansion which will double its polymerization capacity at the plant cost of \$75 million. I could go on and on.

An hon. member: Right on.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex-Kent): Mr. Speaker, there is no compassion, no fairness, and no concern for Canadians.

In my riding, Tory policies have hit 600 jobs in one foul swoop this week. There were nine at Heinz Corporation; 20 at Peterson; 95 at Omsteads, with 120 more on December 7; 60 at Hunt Wesson; 87 at Nabisco; and 40 at Allegretti.

When will this meaningful plan come forward, instead of nonsense rhetoric and condemnation put-down? Why will the government not come up with meaningful policies?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, no amount of theatrics proves anything.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Crosbie: In Cambridge, Ontario, for example, the first production of household trash-compactors rolled off the assembly line at the Inglis plant on September 19. I suggest the hon. member had better watch out or he will be compacted with the rest of the trash.

THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice in her capacity as Attorney General for Canada.

She has indicated that she intends to appeal in the case of Elizabeth Weir, the New Brunswick NDP Leader, against the Attorney General of Canada and the judgment of the New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench which ordered the creation of an extra Commons seat for New Brunswick. The minister will be aware that there will be a long delay in appealing to the New Brunswick Court of Appeal. She will also be aware that under the Supreme Court of Canada Act, with her consent and with consent of the parties, they can go directly to the Supreme Court of Canada.

In view of the fact that I have here a letter from the solicitors for Elizabeth Weir who have agreed to go directly to the Supreme Court of Canada, will the minister, in the interest of justice, fairness and clearing up these matters, agree now to take this case directly to the Supreme Court of Canada?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I will agree to give the case and the issue considerable attention and to make the very best possible decision.

There are the other issues with respect to the appointment of the senators that are before the courts. It is not clear how quickly the Supreme Court of Canada could hear the case and if in fact the procedure outlined by the hon. member would be the most expeditious to get all of the importance elements and issues before the court. But I am giving it careful consideration and will announce my plan of action as soon as possible.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for that. I can tell her that I have checked the docket of the Supreme Court and it is free now. Perhaps she might consider that.

If a higher court upholds the judgment of the trial judge in New Brunswick, would the minister not agree as well that there would be a cloud over all the laws that this very House has passed since the appointment of the GST senators? Would the minister then look at this and