

other departments. Yes, we will succeed, but we must give it everything we've got.

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Quebec now has 405,000 unemployed workers, and this does not include those who have stopped looking for employment. We have had more than 23,500 bankruptcies in the province, and there was a net loss of 68,000 jobs in 1991 alone. More than half the unemployed in Quebec are in the Montreal region. Could the Prime Minister perhaps explain to Montreal's jobless why his budget does not provide any opportunities for finding a job? When can the people of Montreal expect to go back to work in this country?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, unless he has become a complete stranger to the Montreal scene, the hon. member for Saint-Léonard must be aware that the government has invested a lot of effort and a substantial number of programs in the Montreal region in order to get workers the jobs that are now becoming available as a result of our investment in advance technology and industries like the pharmaceutical industry, aerospace and so forth, which generate jobs that pay well. Thanks to our training programs, unemployed workers will have a chance to train for these jobs.

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the minister responsible for the Montreal area answered my question. The jobs he assumes were created in the pharmaceutical industry will be lost because of the cuts in social housing and the loss of the co-operative housing program announced in the budget.

When will the minister responsible for the Montreal area stand up to his colleague, the Minister of Finance, to protect the interests of Montreal workers?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I repeat that the many jobs being created at this time in the aerospace and pharmaceutical industries are the jobs of the future, and those are the jobs we are targeting to restore Montreal's economy. Furthermore, we have

created the right economic climate by reducing interest rates and keeping inflation at a level that is conducive to the kind of new investment that will be beneficial to the Montreal area.

[English]

Oral Questions

LABOUR

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

Would she be prepared to meet with the 22 women in Powell River whose jobs have been taken by strike breakers hired by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce?

Specifically, would the minister meet with these 22 women in Powell River with a view to helping them break the deadlock with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce which is bent on breaking their union and throwing them into the street?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I do not plan to be in Powell River in the near future. Quite honestly, I do not think that would be an appropriate kind of meeting for me to undertake.

Obviously there is a labour dispute and the appropriate way of resolving that is between the union and the employer.

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, the women of Powell River knew that as well as everyone else in the House.

Would she urge the government to conduct a public inquiry into the exploitation of women by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the other chartered banks in Canada?

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, in fact quite recently we received reports from the bankers and the Canadian Banking Association which showed some very significant progress is being made in the employment and the promotion of women.