

*Oral Questions*

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I say, with respect, to the Minister that he knows very well that all the figures that went into its own assessment were not made public by the Government. He also knows that at least two companies that have a good public reputation have issued statements that fly in the face of what the Government is claiming to be the case. I repeat that if the Government has confidence in its own case, what has it got to lose by referring these documents to the Auditor General?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the answer is simple. We have nothing at all to lose by referring all relevant documents to the Auditor General. The Hon. Member for Oshawa ought to know that the Auditor General is a servant of this House. He will perform his duties in the normal way, and I should be very surprised if the Auditor General did not examine a contract as important as this one. And when he does, as always, the Government will be at the disposal of the Auditor General, to give him the information to which he is entitled.

[English]

**Mr. Broadbent:** A year from now.

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## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

## MONCTON SHOPS—POSSIBLE JOB-CREATION ALTERNATIVES

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Canadian General Electric has always been welcome in Moncton. I remind the Minister that the Save our Shops Committee passed a unanimous motion stating that the CGE deal was not enough and did not meet the needs and expectations of the workers and the community. Is the Government looking for alternatives to compensate for the hundreds of jobs that will still be lost even if the CGE deal goes ahead?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, nothing but superhuman efforts would fit the bill. That is the type of efforts that have been made with respect to the Moncton situation. I am happy to advise the Hon. Member that to date CN has accommodated 551 persons. That is in excess of half of the people involved. If we can resolve the Canadian General Electric situation there will be a further 303 persons looked after. CN is making a major effort to see that all of the 1,022 workers affected receive this type of treatment.

In addition, the Government and CN have allocated \$4 million to help the people of Moncton attract other industries to the city of Moncton. That is \$4 million more to assist in that situation, apart altogether from every other government program that exists today in New Brunswick and Canada.

That is what we are doing. What is the hon. gentleman doing except criticizing and trying to impede what has been done?

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** My supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. The fact is that even if the CGE deal goes through 662 jobs will be lost.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Those are the facts.

**Mr. Robichaud:** I ask the Minister will he start looking for alternatives to the loss of these jobs, or is he just simply going to point the finger at the unions and blame them for what he as a Minister has failed to do, that is, find alternate employment for the workers in Moncton?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, this is a dialogue with the dead. I have just given the figures: 551 persons so far have been found other employment by CN. If the CGE situation is resolved that is another 303, and that will be 854. The others, if we cannot find them employment, are being offered generous retraining and settlement provisions and the like. That is what has been done.

● (1430)

There is still a healthy chance that the situation with Canadian General Electric might be resolved. CN is still interested in doing all it can to resolve this matter with the unions. Matters are proceeding behind the scenes about which I cannot speak here and now. I hope that situation will be resolved and, when it is, I hope the hon. gentleman will be more pleased than he now indicates he is with the 551 jobs which have already been found.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF GOVERNMENT LEADER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to draw the attention of Hon. Members to the presence in the gallery today of the Hon. Nick Sibbeson, Government Leader of the Northwest Territories.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER FOR GREENLAND

**Mr. Speaker:** I also wish to draw the attention of Hon. Members to the presence in the gallery of Mr. Tom Hoyem, Minister for Greenland.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!