

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS**CALL FOR EFFORTS TO SETTLE BRANTFORD STRIKE**

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, in my constituency of Brant a strike has been going on for over six months at Hussman Store Equipment Limited. The union has not been on strike for over 31 years. In that time there have been only three cases of arbitration. All the workers wanted was a continuation of the existing contract, plus COLA. The company countered with about 25 concessions which were totally unacceptable to the workers.

The reason I raise this in this Chamber is because the company is owned by Illinois Central, I believe, of the United States, and has been causing a great deal of anti-American feeling not only among the trade union movement in Brantford, but among the populace as a whole. In fact even the newspaper is sympathizing with the strikers. The union believes that the company is out to break the union, and the negotiator from the United States, Mr. Hawley, certainly has indicated that is possibly the direction in which they are going.

I call upon the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ouellet) to get together and try to persuade the company to come back to the bargaining table so that these workers, who have not been on strike for 31 years, can get back to the negotiating table, get the strike settled, and get back to work.

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[Translation]

FINANCE**DISPUTE OVER STATISTICS BETWEEN QUEBEC AUTHORITIES AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, the old saying: "Plus ça change, plus c'est pareil" fits the Quebec Minister of Finance, Mr. Jacques Parizeau, like a glove. When he brought down his Budget last week, Mr. Parizeau said once again that if there were any problems, it was all the federal Government's fault, because federal transfer payments were being cut by \$100 million, which would destabilize Quebec's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I have before me a document published by the Minister of Finance of Canada, the Hon. Marc Lalonde, in which he says that on the contrary, federal transfer payments to the province of Quebec will amount to nearly \$5.9 billion during the current fiscal year, which means an increase of more than \$220 million over payments for 1983-84.

On the weekend and the days following Mr. Parizeau's Budget Speech, people were saying: Another squabble about figures started by the people in power in Quebec City, by those people in the Parti Québécois who are always saying the same old thing, and basically, blaming the other guy.

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Mr. Speaker, I think Quebecers have had enough of these statements. The Department of Finance and the Minister of Finance of Canada set the record straight in a speech the Minister made not long ago. I should like to say to Quebecers that once again, some people are trying to start a war of figures, which is not justified because in fact some increases are involved. I would urge Quebecers to be discerning and see where the truth lies, and that is what they will do and that is what they are doing . . .

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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● (1410)

[English]

MEDICAL CARE**HAZARDS POSED BY MALFUNCTIONING MEDICAL DEVICES**

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, it was shocking to read in the media that almost 800 Canadian heart patients learned that their pacemakers are ten times more likely to fail than expected. Along with this, Canadian doctors and patients learned of defects in about 400 artificial heart valves.

What is equally astounding is that more than 10,000 new medical devices that flood the Canadian market every year get no pre-market screening. The only requirement for 95 per cent of devices used in Canada is that manufacturers be able to provide data on the safety and effectiveness of a product should the Government ask for it.

It is a situation that often sees health officials asking for data after someone has either been killed, seriously injured, or there has been a fatal malfunction of the medical device. Worse still, most hazards and misleading claims involving the devices still go unreported and therefore unresolved.

I find this a shocking state of affairs, to say the least. The constant worry alone by those whose very lives depend on these devices, not knowing when some malfunction may speedily and unexpectedly snuff out their lives, must be indeed a daily fearsome and traumatic experience. Therefore I appeal to the Government to take whatever action is necessary to resolve this enormous problem and to make certain that all medical devices can be used with dependability and safety.

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POOLS**CANADA SPORTS POOL CORPORATION—BRITISH COLUMBIA APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, a major league baseball team would mean \$85 million of stimulus to British Columbia's economy. Yet the federal Government jeopardized B.C.'s chances for a major league base-