

Oral Questions

the co-operation of Mr. Saunders, has decided to close down the shipyards of Canadian Vickers Limited in Montreal East? Yes or not?

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, I thought I made all this clear earlier to one of those Members who, like the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie, Mr. Speaker, will not listen. The Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, and I repeat, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion sent a letter to the people involved with the shipyards, asking them to have a discussion and to find out if industry rationalization could take place. These are people in the private sector who are supposed to meet and determine the scope of rationalization.

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING SOREL SHIPYARD AND LEAVING YARDS AT LAUZON AND MONTREAL OPEN

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of the fact that Mr. Saunders is responsible for two shipyards in Quebec, one in Lauzon and one in Montreal, and that Quebec is responsible for the shipyard in Sorel? Does the Minister want us to believe that Mr. Saunders is capable of closing down the Sorel shipyard and leaving the other two yards open?

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, see what it's like, when someone will not listen!

We are talking about someone involved in the industry, and the fact that these people have to talk to each other. If they don't, how can you expect them to come up with something positive? Mr. Saunders has two shipyards. I imagine he should be able to talk with the other yard owners about what the best policy will be.

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[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

ALTERNATE DAY DELIVERY PROPOSAL

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the post office. In the Budget the Government called upon the post office to produce an operating plan. We have it from reliable sources that this plan recommends alternate third-day delivery. In light of the need for public debate on such a drastic change in public policy, will the Minister make this report public and do so before the Estimates of the post office are dealt with by the committee?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I do not know my

colleague's sources, but all I can say is that there are many alternatives being examined right now by the post office in order to comply with the request of the Minister of Finance which was to come to self-sufficiency in a short period of time. We are examining many alternatives, and one of them could be alternate-day service.

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF REPORT

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has just admitted that he is examining alternate-day service. Will he bring that report forward and make it public so that the examination of the alternatives can be made in a public environment?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, this is one of the alternatives that we are examining. As soon as we will make a decision on that, we will make it public.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

CANADAIR—APPOINTMENT OF BURNS FRY TO REVIEW PRIVATIZATION PROPOSALS

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Does the Deputy Prime Minister not agree that the former Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion created the appearance of another conflict of interest when he appointed the firm of Burns Fry to review and recommend a buyer for Canadair while the President of Burns Fry was sitting on the board of directors of Magna International, a company which at the same time was wishing to purchase Canadair?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that is simply one more of those statements that will be added to the reference of the impartial investigation that will be conducted.

● (1500)

CANADA DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT CORPORATION—MEMBERSHIP OF DIVESTITURE COMMITTEE

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, would the Deputy Prime Minister therefore confirm that as part of the reference for the inquiry he will also look into the situation where the majority of members of the divestiture committee of the CDIC happen to belong to one firm in Canada? Does he not also agree that that creates the impression of a further conflict of interest?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is not original in making that allegation. It has arisen before and will obviously be part of the reference which is made to the impartial investigation.