

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

LOSS OF JOBS IN MONTREAL EAST—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the Minister has no specific plans for stopping the massive loss of jobs in Montreal. Two days ago, she misled the House about the unemployment statistics for Montreal, and yesterday, she tried to reassure Montreal workers by claiming that her temporary job creation and retraining programs, which were announced in June, would be sufficient to stop the massive loss of jobs in their city.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister to be perfectly frank and admit to the House that the amounts to which she referred yesterday will be utterly useless in preventing the massive loss of jobs in Montreal East, a subject that has been raised in the House for many days.

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, our concern is for the people who are unemployed or who are threatened with job loss. I mentioned yesterday that we would be spending some \$200 million in the region of Montreal to provide people with training and with job opportunities so that they can be at work in the future. That amount is an increase over the amount which was spent last year. Whether or not it will be sufficient, we will see as the year goes on. Certainly, under the new Canadian Jobs Strategy there is a flexibility to look at the projects as they come forward to see whether or not they are sufficient, and to adjust them accordingly. That is what we will be doing, Mr. Speaker, so that the individuals concerned are given every possible opportunity.

[Translation]

NEED FOR CREATION OF FULL-TIME JOBS IN MONTREAL

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

This clever verbiage is all very interesting, but the Minister is refraining from any confirmation of what we would like to hear, namely that these programs will contain some specific mechanisms to prevent the loss of jobs at Bombardier, 1,000 jobs at Vickers and losses at several other companies that are part of the industrial base of Montreal and which we have mentioned.

Why does the Minister keep on proposing temporary jobs, which will only reinforce the trend we see in the statistics and which are utterly useless to the thousands of people who are going to lose their jobs very shortly unless this Government wakes up?

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, in the last five years there were some 225 plant closings in Canada. That is a tragedy because it affected thousands of people who lost jobs. We don't want to see that continue. No matter where it is, in Montreal, in Newfoundland, in British Columbia or in northern Ontario, we don't want to see that continue. As a result, the training and job creation programs we have introduced are training people, not for further employment but for continuing employment. That applies to all of those people who live in the area of Montreal East, as it applies to people in other parts of the country. That is our concern, and that is what we will be devoting our time and attention to achieve.

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STATUS OF WOMEN

APPOINTEE TO ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the status of women. Recently the Minister appointed the Vice-President of Public Relations of the Toronto Dominion Bank to the Board of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. In view of the fact that banks are among the worst employers of women in Canada and are denying women their right under the Canada Labour Code to collective bargaining, what possible justification can the Minister have for appointing a senior member of the banking fraternity to be an advocate for women's rights on the Advisory Council?

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Hon. Member that appointees to the Advisory Council not only come from backgrounds which are of concern to women—and access in this area, as the Hon. Member rightly points out, is a matter of concern—but the Advisory Council, as the Hon. Member knows, is made up of people with a wide section of career backgrounds across the country. The background and experience of that mix will be valuable. I believe it will be a two-way experience within the Advisory Council.

Ms. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I don't really think the Advisory Council needs to have people who will require treatment experience.

BANK'S TREATMENT OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Is the Minister aware that the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in a labour dispute at the VISA Centre has offered women bank workers no wage increases, reduced hours of work, no part-time benefits, no protection from technological change, and no grievance procedures? Will the Minister undertake to meet