

Oral Questions

activities. I believe that the reports have been quite positive so far, and that the work is being done properly. It is independently supervised, and I think that the mechanisms which have been installed for this purpose are satisfactory.

Mr. Rose: Not according to the Liberal Member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan who says, "I have never had experience with any group that I mistrust more. They operate in a semi-secret way and they use a big public relations operation to put people off."

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AGENCY

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, secretiveness and mistrust are not what Canadians expect from a regulatory agency. Will the Minister assure Canadians that he will give deep consideration to having an independent regulatory body deal with the research into atomic waste disposal, and have it set up in such a way that it is out of the reach of the nuclear lobbyists?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I have the names of all those on the advisory committee. There are some very independent Canadian groups, such as the Biological Council of Canada, the Chemical Institute of Canada, the Canadian Geoscience Council, the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the Canadian Association of Physicists, and the Canadian Association of Biological Societies. I suggest that these people who are in the technical advisory role are quite independent in nature. I think that to say that just because they are working with AECL they cannot have an independent view of what is happening, is an exaggeration. If someone has a specific case for complaint of which they can advise me, I will certainly look into that, but no one has talked to me about it as yet. I have seen it in the paper.

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT

PLIGHT OF QUEBECAIR EMPLOYEES

Mr. René Gingras (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. As you know, this week the Minister of Transport met with Quebecair employees who are suffering the consequences of a rather unusual situation. The owners of Quebecair are playing politics and the employees are bearing the brunt of the situation. I would like to ask the Minister of Transport what happened at his meeting with representatives of the flight attendants, pilots, maintenance crews and ground personnel, what the results of this meeting were and whether there is still hope for Quebecair employees?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I tried to explain to them the facts about the current situation, but obviously they are caught or at least they get the impression they are caught in a crossfire between the federal and the provincial government. I really do not know what Mr. Clair, the Quebec Minister of Transport, intends to do. He seems to have taken control of the destiny of Quebecair, which would seem to point to control of the company by the Quebec government, but the minister announced that the government was no longer interested because it could not invest any more in the company. In any event, I am willing, since I was supposed to see the minister on Friday about something else, to see him before then to try and find out what his intentions are and to discuss all aspects of the matter with him.

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[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

JOB CREATION PROGRAM CRITERIA FOR EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Because of the great concern that has been expressed, and indeed the money that has been allocated for job creation programs, and because the Liberal Government has set up a number of job creation programs under Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act whereby people who have fallen off of unemployment insurance can not get one of those jobs and people presently collecting unemployment insurance can get those jobs, does the Government not feel that it is unfair to discriminate against those who are the worst off in this situation?

[Translation]

Mr. Rémi Bujold (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member just pointed out in his question, under the provisions of Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, only individuals who are drawing unemployment insurance benefits are eligible. However, he forgot to mention, regarding those who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits or are about to do so, that the department has already taken action to deal with the situation. This summer, the department conducted a study which showed that the number of people in this situation would increase this fall and next spring. Therefore, we established in our own department a follow-up system for all Canada Employment Centres, and as announced by the Minister of Finance three weeks ago, a job creation program is directly aimed at these people, and the Department of Employment and Immigration is taking all the necessary measures to deal with the distressing problems now facing this particular group.