

Minister of Employment and Immigration. Has the Department of Immigration been refusing to ratify or confirm any arrangements, undertakings or contractual obligations made by or on behalf of the RCMP involving citizens of other countries who have been recruited or induced in any way to perform work and services with or for the RCMP?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, that question is pretty broad.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cullen: Do hon. members want an answer, or do they want to shout me down? We work, and are proud to co-operate, with the RCMP in the many areas they have to work in, guarding and protecting the security of this nation. We deal with each case they approach us with on an individual basis, check out the merits and decide, on the information received from them, what is in the best interests of the country. I make no apology for that. I will not go into specific cases, if the hon. member is not prepared to do so.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I can assure both ministers that I am very prepared to go into specific cases. I am asking, as a matter of policy—and I can name them—whether such contractual obligations have been incurred by and on behalf of the RCMP, and whether such obligations and solemn promises are being repudiated by the Department of Employment and Immigration.

● (1442)

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, there have been instances where certain arrangements have been made. The hon. gentleman is suggesting that some contractual obligations have been undertaken and that there have been breaches of those undertakings. I do not have any particulars. If the hon. member has some allegations to make, I would be pleased to have him indicate what they are. I remind him that if he is dealing with matters involving national security, I would appreciate some private indication of the nature of the complaints or allegations in order to avoid any discussion of matters which could be detrimental to national security.

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TRADE

GATT NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Finance does not want to act as Minister of Finance but wants to amuse backbenchers, I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister, the Liberal "Hee-Haw". Manufacturers' domestic sales of TV sets declined by 50 per cent in January. Four TV manufacturers ceased operating in Canada last year, and Canadian General Electric has just announced that it is going to discontinue manufacturing TV sets in Canada in June. Thirty thousand

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jobs have been lost in the electronic and electrical industry in the last eight years.

My question for the Prime Minister is, what steps is his government taking to assist the industry, and what instructions have been given to our negotiators at Geneva in negotiating particularly with respect to the electrical and electronics industry? We are in the process of de-industrialization. Is the Prime Minister taking any steps to stop that?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take note of the question, on behalf of the minister.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, all the studies show that there is a loss of 10,000 manufacturing jobs a month in Canada now, and that central Canada is being denuded of industry. Is the Prime Minister prepared to get himself a Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to take some interest himself in this subject and to try to put a stop to this process? Has he any personal knowledge of what is happening in Geneva in those negotiations, and what instructions has he given? Is the industry to be thrown to the wind?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it is possible at any time to point out a loss of jobs in any part of the country, but I remind the hon. member that statistics yesterday indicated that 290,000 jobs were created in the past year.

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SMALL BUSINESS

FINANCING THROUGH FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew North-Nipissing East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State (Small Business). Because the Federal Business Development Bank is supposed to be a lender of last resort, and hence should be a risk capital bank to a certain degree and at the same time attempt to gear itself to the over-all needs of small business, is the minister planning any change in legislation or regulations to cancel the financial penalty that a small businessman is required to pay if he wishes to pay off his loan sooner than the required date? Also, is the minister planning to provide for longer term capital through the Federal Business Development Bank than the bank seems to have been willing to give to date?

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of State (Small Business)): Mr. Speaker, I would have to start by indicating that the Federal Business Development Bank is a Crown corporation and, as such, is governed by its enabling statute and managed by its directors. Naturally, the bank listens very carefully and very cordially to advice from its only shareholder. I point out that the prepayment penalty which is imposed on these term loans is a traditional practice and the bank is considering its position in this regard.

With regard to the bank being a lender of last resort, as it properly describes itself, I personally believe that a borrower of