

*Oral Questions*

gy. Can the Minister of Employment and Immigration tell the House how many Canadians will have their jobs replaced by new technology this year? Can he tell us how many were replaced last year, and can he give us an estimate of how many people will be replaced by machines in the year ahead? That is the question I had asked and the one to which I would like an answer. I understand that new jobs are also created, but I simply want to know how many people will be replaced by new technology. Will the Minister give us an answer to that?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I cannot very easily lead the Hon. Member out of the Alice in Wonderland world in which he lives. The mere fact that he has repeated his assertions three times that the introduction of new technology indeed causes unemployment or loses jobs does not make it true. In fact a very large number of critics in the employment scene deny the accuracy of the statement he has just made. He can believe it if he wishes, but he should not expect me to respond to a question which I do not believe is sustained in verifiable fact.

\* \* \*

**AIR SAFETY****REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO ACCIDENT AT GIMLI,  
MANITOBA**

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. This past summer there were two very serious air traffic disasters, one involving a DC-9 which came down on American soil, and the other involving ad Boeing 767 which came down in western Canada at Gimli, Manitoba. As the lone Government voice from the West, as Minister in the House, would he advise us if he believes it is necessary that there be a public inquiry into the Gimli air accident?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I certainly agree with the sentiments of the Hon. Member that those two accidents caused a good deal of concern on the part of Canadians. I believe that we are reacting in a way which will develop the examination for which he is asking.

As he may know, Air Canada itself has commissioned a group of experts to look into its safety procedures. As a major shareholder of Air Canada, I expect to have that report in my possession within a matter of days and that the results of that report and whatever corrections it will request would be immediately undertaken by Air Canada. I would also like to report to the House that I have asked the departmental officials to undertake a major audit of the operating activities of Air Canada. That will commence at the end of this month, and we will have a full report. That would obviously be a matter of public disclosure at that time.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that when it comes to the issue of examining and having public inquiries on air safety matters, there is a bill to establish a new air safety

board presently before the Transport committee. If the Opposition were to co-operate we could get that legislation through very quickly and into the House so that we could have a proper mechanism under which public inquiries could be undertaken.

**COMPOSITION OF INVESTIGATING TEAM**

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Does the Minister believe that the appointment of a seven-member commission, five of whom are employees on salary with the Boeing aircraft company, is an upfront, honest attempt to look into the 767 air disaster in Gimli, Manitoba? Does that sound like an honest, upfront and open investigation into the safety of the Boeing 767, when five of the seven are from the Boeing aircraft company?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, as I pointed out, the Aviation Safety Bureau, which is an operating division of the Department of Transport, is presently investigating the incident in Gimli itself. That, however, is a sub part of a larger audit that we will be doing of the entire Air Canada procedures. As I have already said, we will be making that whole report available to Members of this House if they so request.

● (1500)

There can be absolutely no compromise when it comes to air safety. We have already introduced measures based on the Dubin Report which have dealt with some 75 of its recommendations. I certainly recognize the tremendous importance of that issue, but I do ask for the co-operation of the Opposition, who have a responsibility as well. If the Opposition will co-operate with us, we will bring that air safety board Bill to this House as quickly as possible and have it passed on a Friday afternoon. Then there will be a proper mechanism in place.

\* \* \*

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****PLIGHT OF PEOPLE EXHAUSTING BENEFITS**

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. On Saturday last, of the 20 people I saw in my constituency office, seven were unemployed. Every single one was about to run out of UIC benefits. For me, this is a pattern that has been followed over the last 18 months on almost every single Saturday. These people will not be able to find a job in Hamilton. No one is hiring. Welfare will not provide them with sufficient money to meet their commitments. What can I tell them?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, we all know that unemployment levels are much, much higher than we would like them to be. We all know the difficulties and the personal trauma that causes to a whole range of our population. What we have been doing in