

*Oral Questions*

Trade. Considering that the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe, following in the footsteps of the other ten, made public a letter to denounce openly the policy of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce with respect to the footwear industry and decided to make public a letter written to the Minister of State for International Trade, would the minister tell the House whether he has received the letter from the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe who rightfully blames his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and does the Minister of State for International Trade intend to make recommendations to his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce with a view to ensuring the viability of the footwear industry in Quebec as well as in Ontario and Canada?

• (1420)

[English]

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, I received the letter alluded to by the hon. member as I receive representations from many members on this side of the House with respect to the footwear industry. We are looking at the possibilities of rectifying some of the situations referred to in the letter.

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### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA COAL DEVELOPMENT—AWARDING OF CONTRACTS TO JAPANESE COMPANIES

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Yesterday, while in British Columbia, I learned that two more manufacturing contracts associated with coal development in the northeastern part of that province had been bid on by companies from Japan, France, and here in Canada. Is the minister aware that the Canadian bid was the lowest of the three but, in spite of that, the projects and the jobs are going to foreign countries? If he is aware of that, when is the Government of Canada going to take steps to make sure that manufacturing jobs associated with resource development stay in Canada?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, I will be very happy to get further details of the projects mentioned by my hon. friend and get back to him about them. Our general policy is that, where Canadian companies are competitive, then they should have a full and fair opportunity—

**Mr. Siddon:** What about a preferred opportunity?

**Mr. Gray:** —to take part in the industrial benefits from major projects of this sort, and I certainly want to work to see that this policy is respected.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, I can tell the minister why; I learned that in British Columbia yesterday as well. The reason we lost these manufacturing jobs in Canada is due entirely to this government's high interest rate policy. The Japanese have underbid us on the financing by offering an 8½ per cent interest rate, so we are losing jobs because of this government's high interest rate policy. That is the reason.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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• (1425)

### NATIONAL HARBOURS BOARD

#### RIDLEY ISLAND PROJECT—AWARDING OF CONTRACT TO JAPANESE FIRM

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a related question, this time concerning another Japanese firm and relating to the Ridley Island project. As we know, last week it was announced that this contract went to a Japanese firm instead of a Canadian firm which also had a lower bid. I want to ask the minister whether he will confirm to the House that, as a result of the loss of this contract, Canadians will lose 150,000 man-hours of employment which ought to reside in Canada.

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I am not in a position to confirm that that will be the result in terms of lost man-hours, because I understand that the contract which was awarded involved 53 per cent Canadian content. That, in itself, must amount to a substantial amount of Canadian employment.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, I point out to the minister that the Canadian firm, which was lower in price, offered 96 per cent Canadian content, which was just a little better than the Japanese firm.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### NATIONAL RESOURCES

#### TERMS OF SALE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** I would like to ask the minister, given the government policy of selling off resources at almost any price it can get, and given the lack of a related manufacturing development policy, when will the Government of Canada submit an integrated development policy to the House which will ensure that Canadian resources, when they are sold, will be sold at prices which will maximize Canadian benefits and will not be sold under conditions which do not include the maximum number of manufacturing jobs associated with their development which is occurring here in Canada?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!