

recommendation—and this is very relevant to the concerns of the Official Opposition—said that the federal government should give MIL Davie a contract for about \$6.5 million to design, and then another contract for \$200 million over three years, according to the figures of the Conseil, to build a prototype of the “smart ship” we hear so much about.

This ship would fill urgent and recognized needs of some federal departments, but it would also be the prototype of a series of similar ships for the international market, a promising and expanding market. This is the position of the Conseil du patronat, but it is supported by the CNTV and the FTQ. So, the Government of Quebec, the Conseil du patronat and the two largest unions in Québec all agree on that point. The CNTV said in a press release dated October 31, 1993:

Between 1987 and 1992, Quebec lost 11,000 of its 57,000 jobs in the military sector. Jobs are still disappearing. Since more than 60 per cent of contracts are awarded to companies in the Montreal area, it is essential that forces stick together to obtain a realignment of government industrial policies, especially in the military sector which comes under federal jurisdiction.

Two days earlier, on October 29, Mr. Fernand Daoust, then president of the FTQ, had said:

Considering that the future government wants to cancel the helicopter contract, we want to know the projects which will be put in place to provide the 8,000 jobs for 12 years that the Prime Minister is going to abolish without serious analysis of the issue.

As we were told a moment ago, the decision to cancel the helicopter contract, without any compensation, demonstrated a total lack of vision.

To show you how serious the situation really is in Quebec, I will quickly give you the level of dependency of companies. Let me name a few just to show how serious the situation is: Bendix Avelex Inc. depends on military contracts for 70 per cent of its production; Canadian Marconi, 55 per cent; Héroux, 80 per cent; MIL Davie, 91 per cent; Oerlikon and Paramax, 100 per cent in both cases and SNC Technologies, 95 per cent.

As far as job losses are concerned, Bendix lost 350 jobs, Anachemia Canada Inc. 68, Marconi 1,480, MIL Davie 2,740, Oerlikon 410, Expro Chemical Products Inc. 300, Héroux 131, Paramax 1,000, Pratt and Whitney, 200 and I could go on and on; Vickers lost 350 jobs.

This goes to show how much we hope the government will abide by the promises it made to the public; when governments shamelessly treat commitments that way, I think we have a right to be worried about democracy. It could mean they can say anything to the constituents but after election day, fight shy of their commitments and I think this is very serious. When we speak like this, the figures do not seem like much but we must remember that when we talk about unemployed people, we are also talking about human lives, families, careers, educated

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people leaving the country, brain drain or the outflow of know-how.

Somebody told me this morning we can even use the term hemorrhage. In my view neither the economy of Quebec nor that of Canada can afford such a hemorrhage.

In conclusion, if, as we wish, the government takes action to help the DIPP and point it in a new direction, I hope it will do so according to generally accepted practices and will respect conventions. The minister mentioned it before, it is not enough to talk about manpower adjustment committees; I know these committees, I worked with them for eleven years; they give good results in traditional circumstances.

The money given must be administered by committees where the employer and the union concerned will be duly represented, along with representatives of the region. The context must be considered and the government of Quebec has to be consulted, since it is very sensitive to that issue and very interested. These committees must study the situation on a case by case basis, according to the type of activities carried out until now. Indeed we must realize that manufacturing ammunition and making satellite telecommunication devices are two operations that are very different.

These committees should examine the situation, ensure that a dialogue is initiated and reach a consensus about the new orientations and the changes that need to be made to everyday management practices. This is a proven formula that should work. I really hope the government will act upon the positive proposal put forth by the opposition today, which is to see that the situation improves. It particularly makes sense if we recall the government's pretensions, with its slogan “jobs, jobs, jobs”, and the 11,000 jobs lost in the high technology sector. We have to demand a minimum of consistency on the part of this government.

• (1210)

[English]

Mr. Dennis J. Mills (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I begin by saying to the member that the unemployed people of the member's community are as important to us as people in any other community in this country. Whether it is someone unemployed in the defence industry or any other sector of the economy, we feel that it is our responsibility as a government to do our very best to put everyone back to work. That was our campaign, putting people back to work, and we are looking at this in a comprehensive way.

I want to pick up on something that the Minister of Industry said earlier in his speech. It had to do with the responsibility of management of defence industries to develop a strategic approach and to look at new markets for new opportunities for