

*Oral Questions***INDUSTRY****PLANT CLOSURES IN MANITOBA**

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Secretary of State for External Affairs who was recently in western Canada.

He just returned from Manitoba and knows that Canada Packers has closed the doors of one part of its operations, laying off 300 people yesterday. He also knows that 300 more people in that operation will lose their jobs next year. He should know that the Manitoba Sugar Company announced today that it would be closing its operations this summer.

What is the Government doing for those affected workers and, just as important, what it is doing for farmers who depend upon those plants in Manitoba?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Manitoba and had the opportunity to meet with a range of individuals, including the Canadian Grains Council.

In respect of the specific question, I will have to take it as notice on behalf of the relevant Minister and will ensure that an answer is provided next week.

I can say that among the facts brought to my attention when I was in Manitoba was that over 80 per cent of Manitoba's exports are to the United States. Consequently, the present situation of protectionism in that country, which puts both tariff and non-tariff barriers in the path of Manitoba exports, creates a very real and continuing threat to the economic vitality of the Province of Manitoba.

One of the reasons the Government is prepared to undertake a comprehensive trade negotiation with the United States is to try to bring some kind of benefit and job security to the people of Manitoba and the rest of the country.

Mr. Murphy: That may be the statement the Minister wanted to make, but it has nothing to do with the two industries about which I am talking. The beef packing and sugar industries are internal industries. We are losing our jobs in Manitoba, and I wish there was somebody in that Government who could answer these questions today. Apparently there is no one over there who can do that.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Ask the provincial Government. It has a responsibility.

Mr. Murphy: The Manitoba Government is doing damn good for the people of Manitoba. We want something from the feds.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask Hon. Members, because there have now been two inadvertent slips in the use of language which is perhaps not suitable for this place, to be careful.

I know Ministers are very anxious to answer questions, but perhaps they could wait until they have actually been asked a question.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I take back the word "damn" from my comments but not from my thoughts.

TELEPHONE CALLS SUPPORTING MEMBER FOR EDMONTON—STRATHCONA

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. To whom should we refer the calls we are receiving supporting the Hon. Member for Edmonton—Strathcona? To whom should we refer them in the Government?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if there are questions which are genuine questions respecting the Hon. Member for Edmonton—Strathcona—and I took a number of them on the Warren radio show in Manitoba the other day—I am prepared to take more. If the Hon. Member wants to direct those to me, he can certainly do that. Let me also say, since we are speaking of telephones, that if he has any difficulty getting in touch with his Leader, we can perhaps help him in that way as well.

● (1140)

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PRIVATIZATION**BOEING'S ACQUISITION OF DE HAVILLAND CORPORATION—TERMS OF AGREEMENT**

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I would put my question to whomever is answering for the Minister responsible for privatization. It concerns the compensation that the Boeing Company is reportedly asking for de Havilland. Under the agreement with Boeing, the Government agreed to contribute 35 per cent of the cost of modifications to production facilities and equipment to a maximum of \$8.75 million. Can the Minister confirm whether the compensation Boeing is now asking is provided for in the agreement between the Government and Boeing, and that such compensation does not exceed the agreement or the maximum amount set out in that agreement?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that is a very detailed and specific question. The Minister responsible for privatization is unavoidably not in the House. I will have to take the question as notice, and either that Minister or another of the Government will try to get back to the Hon. Member as soon as we can.

REPORTED DEMANDS MADE BY BOEING

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the Minister that the Chairman of Boeing told the House Committee on Regional Development that a team of 12 experts from that company conducted an exhaustive six-month study of all facets of the de Havilland operation. They found a company that has "fine products, impressive managerial design and production skills and experience and adequate