

S.O. 21

Minister responsible for the Province of Nova Scotia, take this matter up immediately and reverse this very regressive action.

* * *

THE ECONOMY

MESSAGE OF CONFIDENCE

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of the House a question which is on the minds of so many Canadians as they start the new year, the question of confidence. During the past month all Members have met and talked with fellow Canadians across the country, gauged their mood, and discussed their expectations. In my own case I spoke to many of the people of Capilano, including retailers, students, homemakers, and leaders in the business community. The message they asked me to convey to this House deals with the necessity to build and substantiate the growing sense of confidence which they have felt since the new Government took office.

From many people, I heard: "We are getting ready to make new investments; we are thinking about expanding our activities. Customers are calling and we are on the brink of creating new jobs and of expanding our trade potential. However, what we need from you is an assurance of continuity. We like what we have heard. Provide us with more, and show that you are truly serious about your faith in the private sector and the ability of the Canadian entrepreneur".

As we embark upon our duties for 1985 we must realize jointly that, no matter what Party we represent, we have a responsibility to our fellow Canadians who are seeking work, and to those who are seeking hope and opportunity. We have a responsibility to conduct ourselves in ways which will raise the level of respect for Parliament, and we have a responsibility to debate and put in place—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that her time has expired.

* * *

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

REPORTED UNITED STATES PLAN TO STORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT CANADIAN BASES

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a major concern expressed by many Canadians, and that is the contingency plans of the United States Government to use Canadian military bases and military equipment to store and deliver U.S. nuclear weapons, and specifically nuclear depth charges at Comox and Greenwood. The vast majority of Canadians oppose the concept of Canada's involvement in the storage or delivery of nuclear weapons, and call upon the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to state unequivocally that Canada will not be involved in the storage or delivery of U.S. nuclear weapons.

• (1410)

Canadians remember that the Canadian Government would never acknowledge or give details on the presence or deployment of nuclear weapons in Canada. It would never provide Canadians with information about the testing of the Cruise missile. In the past the American administration has put Canadian bases on alert, which is a compromise in Canadian sovereignty. In the past the United States has flown nuclear weapons regularly into Canada, to be used in the event of a conflict. Present hon. members of the Government, and many candidates in the past election campaign, committed themselves to creating a nuclear weapons free zone in Canada. It is time for the Prime Minister to stand and clear up this matter and ensure that both Canadians and Americans understand that Canada will never be a base for, and Canadians will never use, nuclear weapons.

* * *

[Translation]

SHIPBUILDING

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Edouard Desrosiers (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to censor the former Liberal Government most emphatically for the way it has hurt the Canadian shipbuilding industry in recent years by taking its business to foreign countries. As a result, the 16,000 jobs still existing a few years ago dwindled to 7,260 by September 30 last year, and this does not include all the indirect employment lost in related industries. Fortunately, the Liberal Party has almost become a thing of the past. We in the Progressive Conservative Party are now going to try to restore order to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my hon. colleagues on the Government side and on the Opposition benches of an important meeting I shall be having this Wednesday with representatives of the shipbuilding industry. The unions will also take part, and the press will be welcome. In recent years, this basic industry, an essential sector of our economy, has experienced a serious economic slump. It will require quick intervention on our part, which may even mean eliminating the loopholes allowed by the former Liberal Government and which Liberal policy still contains today.

* * *

[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, last month's pre-Christmas orgy of Conservative patronage is but another example of how deliberately and shamefully dishonest the Conservatives were with Canadians during the election campaign.