

Oral Questions

up and we are assured that the best job security for the employees of de Havilland is exactly the kind of deal we made with Boeing, with its financial and marketing strengths, the world product mandate, and the technology which we retain in Canada. That is where the real job security will come from.

Mr. Broadbent: The Minister has just said that the best job guarantee is no guarantee because he knows, unlike the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement and other deals which have been made for the transfer of ownership, there is not a guarantee written into that agreement. The Minister knows that.

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Since we learned this as a result of Paul Marshall's briefing late yesterday to Members representing all Parties in the Ontario Legislature—which was a meeting I just learned about—does the Minister think it appropriate that Members of the Canadian House of Commons have to learn through private contacts with people in Toronto what a federal Crown corporation is doing? Why is that information not provided to the Canadian House of Commons?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): I believe, Mr. Speaker, that before we announced the transaction, complete folders of the available information were made available to all Hon. Members of this House.

An Hon. Member: You can't read.

Mr. Broadbent: No. Folders with nothing in them don't matter an awful lot.

FINALIZATION OF DEAL

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): The Minister knows that Mr. Marshall gave Members of the Ontario Legislature all kinds of information yesterday which is not available to Hon. Members of this House. Will the Minister confirm that if the Government of Canada does not finalize this deal by the end of this month, it is going to cost the taxpayers of Canada another \$60 million? And does that explain why the Government is in such a rush to make a bad deal with Boeing?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, we are making a great deal with Boeing, and we are making a great deal for Canada. Again I quote from the *Winnipeg Free Press*:

Instead of sniping and complaining, Ed Broadbent and Lloyd Axworthy should be down on their knees on behalf of Canadian taxpayers—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Is that your briefing note?

An Hon. Member: On your knees, Ed.

Mr. de Cotret:

—thanking the Government for removing this millstone from around their necks. And Bob White should be down on his knees thanking Boeing for giving his . . . members a chance to continue applying their skills in a productive enterprise which now has the chance to be an asset rather than a burden to the country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond, when his colleagues are prepared to let him ask a question.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CAPE BRETON ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will know that his economic policies are not working in Atlantic Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Dingwall: Unemployment is up, and it is up substantially. I would like to ask the Prime Minister why the recommendation of the Cape Breton Advisory Committee—the appointments to which he made—of \$600 million for short-term job-creation programs has not been acted upon by his Government, particularly in view of the fact that 4,000 additional Canadians in that area of Canada are unemployed as opposed to last year? Why is the Prime Minister dragging his feet on this most important initiative?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): First, Mr. Speaker, the indication as set out by my hon. friend that the economic policies are not working is, of course, demonstrably false—demonstrably false. This Government has created more jobs in 14 months than the Liberals did in 55 months. That is the reality.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: It will interest my hon. friend because it will interest anyone who is hopeful about the welfare of Canada, to hear some fact which just came out moments ago. Housing starts during November were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 197,000, up 65 per cent over last year. Starts of multiple-unit dwellings were up 82 per cent—

Mr. Hovdebo: Order.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Mulroney: —over last year. This is very good news for Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

An Hon. Member: They don't like that.