

to stop a repetition of these losses? Last year we had Consolidated Computers. This year we have Canadair. What is next?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the debate in Question Period for the past few days has indicated that the Government has taken steps to prevent a repetition of that unfortunate period of time at Canadair. Those are the steps the Government has taken.

With respect to the quotes from the Auditor General, I repeat that I have not seen them. My impression is that in the questions asked there was a point where the quotation marks stopped and where the Hon. Member interpreted in his own way what the Auditor General might or might not have said.

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PETRO-CANADA

DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It concerns the dismissal of several Petro-Canada employees engaged in East Coast exploration work. There are reports that these employees were dismissed because they either demanded or received favours from Petro-Canada contractors.

We know there has been political interference in Petro-Canada's operations on the East Coast, particularly with reference to supply bases and services. Will the Minister confirm or deny these allegations of improper conduct by Petro-Canada employees, and will he assure the House that he will not tolerate any pay-offs or kick-backs on Petro-Canada contracts?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, everyone knows that I do not intervene in the operations of Petro-Canada on a daily basis. It is managed like any other company. If the Hon. Member is aware of some irregularities, it is his duty to give those to me. I will make sure that the employees will serve Petro-Canada in a most honest way, as they must.

Mr. Crosby: I will be glad to provide the Minister with the information. There are at least three Petro-Canada employees who were dismissed.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I want to know why they were dismissed, because they were involved in important offshore exploration work with several companies, including Wolf Offshore Transport Ltd., which is one of those great Canadian companies whose owner lives in Europe and spends very little in Canada. If the Minister wishes to investigate this, he can ask Mr. Walter Wolf and his friends what is going on, and ask the manager for Petro-Canada

Oral Questions

Explorations what is going on. I hope he will then report to the House.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, if employees have been dismissed it is because the management has found good reasons for dismissal. If they have done something wrong and have lost their jobs because they have not acted properly, I think the management has done exactly what had to be done.

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FORESTRY

FIRES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—INQUIRY RESPECTING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment and Forestry, who was informed in a question last week about the serious situation with forest fires in British Columbia. This has now reached crisis proportions. Thousands of hectares or acres of prime forest land are being destroyed daily. Could the Minister tell us today to what extent this Department of the federal Ministry is involved in the attack and the fighting of this serious situation in British Columbia? Has he negotiated with the Provinces to determine what aid and weight his office can give to alleviate the situation?

● (1430)

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment): Yes, Madam Speaker, I believe the situation is a fluctuating one. There was some indication of improvement last week. The situation may be becoming serious again. The co-ordination of federal and provincial efforts in this area is managed through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in Winnipeg, which has been in touch with the Government of British Columbia about the situation and which is co-ordinating the organization of resources as they may be needed to confront the problem.

FUNDING OF FOREST FIRE CENTRE AGENCY

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Madam Speaker, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in Winnipeg has a total of about \$100,000. Could the Minister tell me how far \$100,000 would go to fight such a disaster situation in a Province that depends for 50 per cent of its economy on its forestry resource, and where one major forest company alone will have 25 per cent of its feedstock destroyed before the year is out? Does the Minister feel that is the only effort the federal Government should make in response to such a crisis?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I would remind the Hon. Member, as he knows but some Members of the House may not, that the role of the agency is to co-ordinate the firefighting fleets and the facilities available in a variety of Provinces, and also to keep in touch with resources which are available in the United States. It is