

*Oral Questions*

concerning the workers at Sainte-Thérèse and we appreciate that.

However I would remind him that he made a commitment 16 months ago in an answer to a question of the Leader of the Opposition in the House on November 7, 1984. He said at the time that he would take up the matter with the management of GM. How is it that after 16 months we are still at the same point, the workers at Sainte-Thérèse are worried about losing their jobs, and the investments are being made elsewhere?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party members should get their act together. Either they are in favour of investments in Canada—in Ontario, in British Columbia—or they are not. I can say as a Canadian that I am pleased to see that kind of investment in Canada, the largest ever in the history of the automobile industry, if I am not mistaken. So they chose Oshawa, well good for them! It does not prevent me from speaking directly to the president of General Motors, as I have done before, to urge him to invest more and soon in Quebec.

## REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MAKE REPORT TO THE HOUSE

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, I would simply ask the Prime Minister whether he would promise to report to the House within a month on the progress of negotiations, because the people of Sainte-Thérèse are quite concerned and want to know what is going to happen.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the people of Sainte-Thérèse are getting tired. Except for this investment, nothing has been done in the automobile industry in the past 20 years. Finally a new Government takes over and we have this investment. Hopefully there will be others in co-operation with the union and General Motors so as to give a better break to the company workers.

SITUATION OF GENERAL MOTORS WORKERS AT  
SAINTE-THÉRÈSE

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Since not a single job will be created in Sainte-Thérèse as a result of Hyundai's investments in Bromont, could the Prime Minister inform the House what specific measures the Government intends to take to protect the jobs of 4,000 General Motors employees at Sainte-Thérèse, which adds up to three times the number of jobs that will be created in Bromont?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I said it before and I am delighted to repeat that we have already started a very serious dialogue with the management of General Motors and other automobile manufacturers, to urge them to invest more in Canada and to spread out their

investments so as to enhance regional development, including Quebec.

[English]

## PROSPECT OF QUEBEC PLANT CLOSURE

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Is the Prime Minister not aware of the fact that the General Motors plant at Sainte-Thérèse is due to close in July of 1987 because no further product has been planned for it after that time? If the Government was prepared to put such heavy measures into attracting Hyundai into Bromont, Quebec, what specific measure is it prepared to take to protect those 4,000 jobs and ensure that those automobile workers at Sainte-Thérèse can stay on the job?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the best thing we can do for General Motors or anyone else is to continue what we are doing with interest rates going down, employment going up, and 580,000 new jobs created. That is what it is all about, a healthy private sector and a growing Canada.

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● (1430)

## YOUTH

## KATIMAVIK PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, during this season of reflection and reconciliation, and as a way to be fair to the concerns of all those involved, is the Prime Minister willing to consider fulfilling the original commitment of the Government of Canada to the board and staff of Katimavik until June, 1987, allowing time for an arbitration committee to assess the value of Katimavik and, based on that assessment, if it is of value, to explore possible funding from provincial, municipal, and private sector sources?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 1975, the former President of the Treasury Board, a member of the Liberal Government, stated, as reported at page 10157 of *Hansard*:

I therefore must announce that there will be no Opportunities for Youth Program next summer—

He also said that the LIP program would be discontinued and:

The government will stop providing financial support to the Company of Young Canadians—

What the Government was doing was discontinuing certain programs pursuant to new economic realities, as any democratically elected Government—

**Mr. Gauthier:** That was 11 years ago!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Eleven years do not change the principle of a democratically elected Government called upon to make those decisions. We made a decision in regard to Katimavik. That