

Oral Questions

● (1420)

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, I will have this situation looked into, and if the undertakings are not being lived up to I will ask that the enforcement provisions of the law are vigorously employed.

HIRING PRIORITY SOUGHT FOR LAID OFF WORKERS

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, it seems to me that right across Canada FIRA is a pretty toothless tiger when it comes to protecting Canadian workers. When Shell took over Crows Nest Industries the first thing it did was split it into two companies, a forest company and a resource company. Now they have even refused to hire the men they are laying off from the forest company for their resource company, which is hiring. Will the government at least take steps to ensure that the men laid off by the forest company are given first priority for hiring with the resource company?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, we will first want to see whether the situation described by my hon. friend is covered in the undertakings given as a condition of the allowance. If that is the case, then I will certainly do what I can to ensure that the act is being properly respected.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

MIRABEL—INQUIRY WHETHER EXPROPRIATED FARMS WILL BE RESOLD TO FORMER OWNERS

Mr. Robert Gourd (Argenteuil-Papineau): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works, who is responsible for the Canada Lands Company (Mirabel) Limited.

Yesterday, the minister met with a group of expropriated farmers from Mirabel, a meeting that was mentioned on the news and in today's newspapers. Could the minister inform the House about yesterday's meeting, and could he confirm that his recommendation to cabinet will be to sell back some of the expropriated land at Mirabel?

[English]

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question inasmuch as the newspaper reports I saw of the meeting I had with representatives of citizens of the area were inaccurate.

To begin with, as I indicated in response to a question in the last few days, the government has taken the position that the matter of rents is entirely separate from the long-range planning issues involved in the Mirabel land corporation. Indeed, we did not accept the proffer of rent yesterday and

suggested that was a matter for the courts if they could not settle the matter between lawyers. As far as the long-range plan is concerned, as hon. members know the Mirabel land corporation has advised me, and I have advised my cabinet colleagues. I think it is fair to say that because the objective of the study to begin with is to investigate the possibility of returning some of the land under certain conditions, yes, generally speaking, under certain conditions, that will be one of my recommendations.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

APPLICATION FOR GRANT MADE BY FIRM IN SUDBURY, ONT.

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is the minister aware that approval is being sought for a DREE grant to a consortium for the establishment of a mining equipment manufacturing firm in Sudbury known as Meco, and that such firm will be in direct competition with an established firm in North Bay called Jarvis Clark, which, because of the terrible state of the economy, has announced its intention to lay off 167 of its approximately 400 employees?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, I do not think it has been the custom to confirm DREE program applications because of commercial confidentiality, unless and until there is an approval. However, I assure my hon. friend that I will certainly bear in mind very carefully what he has to say on this subject.

CONSEQUENCE OF GRANT BEING MADE

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, my question is to the same minister. I assume that the Minister of Supply and Services has been in touch with the minister on this matter, and I would be interested in knowing the minister's position and whether he is willing to look into it. I understand the proposed grant is \$2.2 million, and I hope he will have it denied because the awarding of these funds will mean the death of a very successful firm in North Bay.

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Supply and Services is in close touch with me on all matters pertaining to the industrial development of his riding. He does a very good job in that regard.

Mr. Clark: Maybe you could call Arthur Erickson.

Mr. Gray: We will certainly keep in mind the views of my hon. friend, the views of the Minister of Supply and Services, and others on matters of this sort. Perhaps the hon. member's concerns should be expressed to the province of Ontario which