

*Oral Questions**[English]*

Mr. Wilson: Mr. Speaker, the Minister gave us a long speech on economic policy, but did not address in any way at all the question which is put to him.

REQUEST FOR NON-INTERVENTIONIST POLICY

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, let me go directly back to the main element of my question. A recent survey by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce shows a clear desire on the part of business for a non-interventionist industrial policy by Government, for example, no bail-outs of sick companies, the use of broad base tax incentives rather than arbitrary, narrowly focused and, as the Minister knows, sometimes politically motivated grants to industry, and opposition to a major federal Crown corporation designed to invest in particular industries. Is the Government in agreement with this desire for a pull-back in its policies, which policies have intervened in the economy, presumably to benefit industry which clearly opposes these policies?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, once again, I remind the hon. gentleman that the last budget contained many initiatives that were specifically aimed at stimulating the private sector. In fact, these measures involved funding of about \$2.4 billion.

As for the survey the hon. gentleman referred to, you will recall that it was conducted in 1982, and that its findings reflect the views we have often heard in business circles, namely, a desire for less regulation and less government intervention. I believe the measures we have taken during the past year are a step in that direction, but I may remind the hon. gentleman that far from rejecting Government support, businesses are very much interested in obtaining such support.

This morning, the Minister announced, in my presence, a contribution to research and development at Pratt & Whitney, involving about \$468 million over the next 10 years, to be matched by a \$1.2 billion contribution by Pratt & Whitney, which will create 6,000 additional jobs and generate an additional \$19 billion in sales over the next 10 years. That is a significant contribution and an important example of co-operation between the private sector and Government in creating jobs in this country and putting Canada in the forefront of advanced technology.

● (1420)

[English]

Mr. Wilson: Mr. Speaker, that is very, very expensive job-creation money.

MINISTERS' VIEWS ON POLICY

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask one more question and I would like to

address it to the Prime Minister. The Minister of State for Economic Development is clearly non-interventionist in his approach. He said that the Government should create a better business climate and not intervene directly. The Minister of State for Social Development in the other place takes a contrary view and wants the Government, through the Canada Development Investment Corporation, to invest directly in certain industries. The industrial community has clearly rejected this approach. I would like to ask the Prime Minister what is the policy of the Government. Should the Government invest directly in industrial corporations, or should it not?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member followed the reply of the Minister of Finance he would know that current examples were given of co-operation between the federal Government and the private sector, but co-operation where the private sector was holding the equity and we were encouraging development, either through grants for technical development or through tax incentives, some \$2.4 billion of which were announced in the last budget.

The answer is quite clear. The Hon. Member refers to the CDIC and to the Minister in charge. The Hon. Member knows what the portfolio of the CDIC is. It is not for the CDIC to invest in the private sector. It is for the CDIC to attempt to provide better management for those shares that the Canadian Government—

An Hon. Member: Like Canadair?

Mr. Trudeau: —that the Canadian Government already owns as a result of us preventing the private sector from allowing the destruction of this aeronautics industry, both in the case of Canadair and de Havilland. All CDIC is doing is managing assets that the private sector proved incapable of managing and that we are now attempting to manage to keep this technology here.

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SHIPBUILDING

CRITERIA GOVERNING CONTRACTS—UNEMPLOYMENT AT PORT WELLER

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce I direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board who has a certain responsibility for the Niagara Peninsula as well as for southwestern Ontario. Last Thursday in St. Catharines, where the unemployment rate is already at 16.1 per cent, the highest of those metropolitan communities that reported, over 700 employees of the Port Weller drydocks who are unemployed were complaining and protesting about the fact that \$4 billion worth of shipbuilding contracts had been let since June, 1983, and none had gone to Port Weller. Since Members of the Government have said that Port Weller drydocks will not share in the allocation of this money because it was not the low