

Oral Question

flagrant disregard for that policy on the part of some officers, they should be dealt with appropriately, and if in fact they were errors of omissions, if you will, loopholes in the policy and so on, then to be sure that the new policy will prevent that happening in the future.

I have not asked them to assemble a detailed list but if it is part of their examination, and if the hon. member has some curiosity in this regard and it will not violate business confidence or trample on the rights of people who need not have their rights trampled on, I will certainly give consideration to his request.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, first I want to tell the minister that on page 6094 of *Hansard* of yesterday I specifically asked him to table the list in question.

[*Translation*]

I would now like to put my supplementary question to the Deputy Prime Minister. Is the government prepared to initiate, as of today, a complete investigation by a parliamentary committee of the administrative practices of the Federal Business Development Bank? Is the government prepared to respond to this issue today?

[*English*]

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first question, I told the hon. member that his reference to the fact that I had suggested he put it on the Order Paper was improper. That response on the Order Paper was in regard to another question. He knows that. He should not try to misrepresent what I said in the House.

In terms of an investigation, as I have indicated I have instructed the President of the Federal Business Development Bank to determine how in fact we have this situation where strip clubs receive mortgage financing from the bank in contradiction of the bank's policy.

In terms of a committee of the House of Commons, under parliamentary reform a committee is free to take whatever action the committee decides to take.

[*Translation*]

LAY-OFFS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Yesterday in Montreal, Fonderie CSF announced 250 lay-offs at its plant in East Montreal. Since the beginning of this year, we have now had over 80 lay-off announcements involving nearly 7,000 workers in Montreal. When does the Government intend to take these lay-offs seriously? And what is the Government prepared to do to reverse this deplorable situation?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons)): Mr. Speaker, I don't know why but every Friday, the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce rises in the House and asks his usual question, claiming that jobs have been lost in Montreal and that the government has done nothing about it. And every Friday I give him more or less the same answer. I may inform the hon. member that he has a very selective memory, and that from time to time, plants close down in Montreal as they do anywhere else. However, there are also plants that open their doors in Montreal, thus creating new jobs. In fact, one of the reasons why Montreal and the Quebec economy are more dynamic is that in Quebec and Montreal, the entire economic community, the economic elite was in favour of the Free Trade Agreement and Bill C-22. We have created far more jobs in Montreal during the past five years than were created under the previous Liberal government, and that will continue, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, it so happens that every week there are more and more lay-offs at Montreal. The answer of the minister is a very harsh and cold response to the situation of these workers.

Since the beginning of this year nearly 7,000 lay-offs have been announced in Montreal: 900 hundred plus at VIA Rail, 500 at Domtar, 200 at Eastern Airlines, 590 at Gillette, 1,100 at Simpson's, 360 at Weston's, 380 at Vickers, and the list goes on and on. These are real lay-offs affecting real persons, not simply estimates based on surveys.