

Oral Questions

always no. So the federal Government had to do something and is building a penitentiary in the area in order to relieve—

Mr. Malépart: I think we should pay your riding a visit.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: You can laugh, but I can assure the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie that the 500 workers in Port-Cartier who stand to benefit from this \$60 million investment are delighted. On the North Shore, jobs are a serious matter, not something to be snickered at the way you are doing now.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MEET INTERESTED PARTIES

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister is doing what he did to the Mayor of Port-Cartier and is now doing to the Government of Quebec: he is evading the issue. What I want to know is . . . The people of Matane are fed up as well. Thirteen mayors from the Matane area are on their way to Ottawa to get an answer about the paper mill. Is he going to ignore them as well?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, I cannot hear anything at this point because of the noise from both sides of the House. May I have a question, please?

[Translation]

Mr. Lapierre: What I want to know from the Prime Minister, considering that nothing is happening in Matane or Port-Cartier because of the Government's neglect, is whether he is going to do something. Is he going to meet with the parties concerned and deliver the goods once and for all?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, for five years he was with the Department, he was a Liberal member. Every day, Matane and Port-Cartier were begging and beseeching—

Mr. Ouellet: Péladeau voted for you because he wanted a change but he's against you now.

Mr. Mulroney: Listen to what he's saying about Pierre Péladeau, and the *Journal de Montréal*. Talking this way about Pierre Péladeau in the House of Commons is going to cost you. And as the instigator of Bill S-31 which was tabled to crush the francophones in Quebec, you have a nerve talking about unemployment. You would be ashamed—

Mr. Masse: Chickens coming home to roost!

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mulroney: Next?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. Members might note that it is not my time they are wasting.

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● (1440)

INSURANCE

INCREASES IN PREMIUMS

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. It is in regard to the national crisis in the insurance industry and its impact on day care, municipalities, community centres, school boards, and now our National Ski Team. While the Minister is working to develop higher standards for property and casualty insurance dealing with solvency and the capital base, and before she puts a package in place, will she take the opportunity to call in the heads of the major insurance companies operating in Canada and request them to extend last year's rates and last year's coverage to these organizations for a period of approximately six months so that they can survive? Will she agree to do that?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, as I explained to the House yesterday, premium rates are a matter of contract law and fall within provincial jurisdiction. In many cases the provincial Governments have taken some action on this front. I have indicated that I will co-operate with them to the fullest extent possible. I am in constant touch with the industry so that I know what is going on.

EFFECT ON MUNICIPALITIES AND SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister. What the Canadian people, all provincial and municipal Governments, as well as the organizations are looking for is leadership, since this is a national problem. If the Minister is not prepared to call in the heads of the insurance companies will she at the very least work to provide the necessary financing in the short term to these organizations so that they can continue to operate, whether they are our ski teams in Europe, or elsewhere, or our day care centres? Will she agree to do this so that these organizations will be able to operate without fear of lawsuits?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, my colleague has already been in touch with the National Ski Team. Members of the team met with him this morning. We have made every effort to co-operate and help facilitate solutions. I think that is our role.