

Was the Government contemplating sailing through the Arctic or sailing through an election in B.C. with the promise of 1,000 jobs it had no intention of creating with this announcement?

• (1450)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative language is the same for the Liberals as it is for the NDP. We have first to go with the definition of the deal. It is very technical but I am sure that the Member can understand.

Some Hon. Members: Go slow.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bouchard (Roberval): I am not sure, but I think the Member can understand that. We know that the shipyard in Vancouver at the present time could be sold in a few days but it has to be fixed first. Second, we have to decide on what kind of propulsion system we will use. We have two possibilities. As soon as this is settled, we will be starting. Good news is not for the Liberal Party, and I maintain what I believed before.

Once again, we cannot construct the *Polar 8* if we do not have the design. That is the way we work on this side of the House.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, we would like to believe that this matter is a laughing matter but it really speaks to whether or not this Government can be taken at its word when it makes profound statements to Parliament and the people of Canada.

COMMITMENTS RESPECTING ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): The Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Transport and the Minister of External Affairs spent a good part of a year or two before the election talking about the record of a previous Government that left the Arctic unprotected.

The country was in a crisis; the Russians, the Americans and every other nation were about to take over. Now they have become sensible and cancelled the foolish submarines and are trying to crawl out from under a commitment of 1,000 jobs at Versatile Shipyards in British Columbia.

My question for the Prime Minister is a straightforward one. Prime Minister, what has changed in the Arctic that

suddenly you can walk away from your pre-election promises?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did not hear all of that.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: But the part that I did hear dealt with the explanation that had already been provided by my hon. friend, the Minister of Transport, in regard to the construction of the *Polar 8*.

The Government indicated that this was a very important instrument for the assertion of sovereignty in northern Canada which had been lacking for many years. I thought that the statement by the Minister of Transport was remarkable in its clarity—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: —and he is indicating very clearly not only the importance that we place on the Arctic, but the importance that the Government places on having this very important instrument built and constructed at Vancouver.

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IMMIGRATION

EMPLOYMENT OF NANNY—LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Immigration. It concerns today's media reports about a nanny who faces deportation under this Government and who was formerly employed by the sister to the Minister.

I do not wish to cast any aspersions, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Marchi: However—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Marchi: Given that it is illegal to employ those without landed immigrant status, as is the case, given that the employer is alleged to have known of the nanny's illegal status and given that the Department only issued a deportation order after the termination of the nanny's employment, can the Minister please explain to the House her role and her Department's role in this particular case?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to comment on the details of the claim since it is now before the Immigration Department.

In terms of my own involvement, there has been none and there will be none.