

Oral Questions

That being so, I must say that we have begun the serious task of setting the local and regional economy on an even keel, and to cooperate with the companies and the Quebec Government with a view to restoring a climate of prosperity.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I did not ask an aggressive question to the Prime Minister. I asked a question.

We have here a very important list of cases where thousands of jobs were lost in ridings whose residents thought . . . I am asking a question.

An Hon. Member: Ah, stop it!

Mr. Chrétien: I asked a question . . .

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Calm down!

Mr. Chrétien: I want to understand.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Calm down!

Mr. Chrétien: Thousands of Quebecers have lost their jobs in Trois-Rivières, Berthier, Shawinigan, Cowansville, the Gaspé area and elsewhere. They have made representations to the Department of—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Member have a question?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: I would ask the Prime Minister to tell us whether he will go to the trouble of examining those files and try to re-create the jobs lost in the Province of Quebec since November. And the list I gave him is incomplete to boot.

Mr. La Salle: That was your doing, Jean!

Mr. Mulroney: Naturally, Mr. Speaker, we examine every possibility of creating jobs in Quebec or elsewhere. We will examine such cases in a Canadian context as well, for we firmly believe that the prosperity of any province is linked with national prosperity. That is why we want to be fair with all regions of Canada, not only with one province or one region of a province, as was the case in the Saint-Maurice region under previous Governments, where even some ridings in the centre of Quebec claimed that preferential treatment had been extended. I never shared that opinion, never! But I can tell you that we are going to show honesty in our efforts to promote all regions—

An Hon. Member: Schefferville!

Mr. Mulroney: He mentions Schefferville, and he is right. The electors of Schefferville gave me a strong majority in the riding of Manicouagan, precisely because they were fed up with you people.

[English]

STATUS OF WOMEN

APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday I believe the Prime Minister surprised the Hon. Member for Outremont by replying that he would today be announcing the name of the President of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. I wonder if the Prime Minister is now in a position to advise the House of the bilingual, energetic, and knowledgeable woman who will head this Council?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the House will be pleased to learn that today the Government has appointed Sylvia Gold to be the President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, effective April 1. May I say in commenting, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deans: No, you may not. You have given the answer.

Mr. McLean: —in terms of concerns expressed in the House, and in terms of her capacity and knowledge of women's issues, her language, and her acceptability on women's issues—

Mr. Speaker: With great respect to the Minister, the Minister has the option to make a statement under motions.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

DECLARATION OF MINISTER

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have another question concerning the Domtar Corporation which I direct to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister has just told us that the control of the Government of Quebec and the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, over Domtar has nothing to do with the refusal to extend a grant to Domtar.

How does the Prime Minister explain the announcement made in November 1984, by his Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, to the effect that corporations controlled by provincial governments no longer would qualify for federal grants?

Which is the Government's policy, the Minister's expressed ideology or the Prime Minister's statement?