

Oral Questions

Corporation was involved. The federal Government has covered those losses.

I might also take this opportunity to point out that when we experienced the collapse of the CCB and the Northland Banks the federal Government undertook to compensate those unsecured depositors, I must say to the objection of the New Democratic Party, which was most unfortunate. We have been clearly on record as demonstrating that we are serious about this.

We have tried to encourage provincial authorities to take whatever steps are necessary to accommodate these people, but in terms of the actual suggestion of the legislative changes which the Hon. Member has put forth, I will certainly advance that to the Minister of Finance and perhaps he can get back to the Member himself.

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO LEGISLATION

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, when people put money into RRSPs, they do not have to pay income tax at that time. They supposedly will pay the income tax when they begin to draw their benefits. These people have lost that money. They will not get their benefits and the Government of Canada at that time will not get the income tax which people would have paid. That money has been lost.

When will the Government change the law so that this kind of rip-off and fleecing of the public will not continue?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Hon. Member is advancing a serious proposal that probably deserves serious attention. I will take that as a representation.

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[*Translation*]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

MONCTON—WORKFORCE SEPARATION PROGRAM

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

[*English*]

After the massive lay-offs announced by CN in Moncton and all hopes of saving those jobs were lost, CN and the railway unions agreed to a workforce separation program. All of this was done in good faith. However, CN has unilaterally accelerated the lay-offs and the workers feel they have been double-crossed. Is the Minister aware of this situation and what is he planning to do to protect those workers, the very few who are left in Moncton?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the so-called accelerated lay-offs to which the Hon. Member has referred. The Minister of Transport is in Moncton today, I believe, and I am sure the matter will be raised. Perhaps he may very well be dealing with that issue on the occasion of his visit.

[*Translation*]

LAY-OFFS AT GORDON WORKSHOPS IN MONCTON—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Still along the same line of thought, Mr. Speaker, CN management continue to lay off people in Moncton even though there is more work than the workers can handle, particularly at the Gordon workshops. So why would the Conservative Government let CN act this way? Is it not the responsibility of the Government and the Minister of Transport to protect the jobs of workers, no matter where they are in this country, and to prevent these jobs from being transferred elsewhere?

In recent years the regions of Canada have been left to die a slow death. Is that the real regional development policy of the Conservative Government, Mr. Speaker?

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that the Government does not manage or run CNR. It is run by a Board of Directors, and a management team which is very competent and very effective. The Hon. Member would be the first one to criticize us if we were seen as unduly interfering with the management and operation of a Crown corporation. I know there has been a program put together funded by DRIE to support workers suffering dislocation.

I should also remind the Hon. Member that if he had been so concerned about the welfare of the workers of Moncton he would have done his bit to support the establishment of the General Electric locomotive manufacturing shop which would have provided long term jobs, jobs into the future. The Hon. Member chose to ridicule—

Mr. Robichaud: What did you do?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville.

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RAILWAYS

ONTARIO-MICHIGAN TRAFFIC—SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, Windsor has become a paradigm of railway safety under the Government's deregulation policy and, in part, the deregulation policy in the United States.