

Oral Questions

weapons in this conflict and remove whatever weapons are there immediately? Would he not do that?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has followed these issues for some time and is one of the genuine students in the House of procedures at the United Nations.

He knows that discussions in the Security Council now, which have so far yielded extraordinary consensus, are continuing with an eye to see if that consensus can be extended. I think that on reflection he would understand that a call by Canada or anyone else for some kind of unilateral action on nuclear weapons, on some nuclear weapons, because that is what he is talking about, could well have a counterproductive effect.

* * *

VARITY CORPORATION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology.

As he knows, Ontario has used every cent of the \$9.4 million in compensation that it received from Varity Corporation for the benefit of workers who are affected by plant closures in Ontario. Evidently the federal government has simply pocketed its \$25 million share and put it into the general fund.

Why does this government not show the same sensitivity to the plight of workers as has the New Democratic Government of Ontario and allocate its share to the benefit of workers?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to correct my friend. It was not \$25 million but it was \$15.6 million.

Second, my friend knows very well that the agreement we had regarding Varity with the Government of Ontario and Canadian Autoworkers was a global agreement within which there were four or five different parts that the Government of Ontario agreed with.

The \$15 million, as all money used by the government, will be used in the best interests of the country. I will not give any guarantee that it will be automatically for or put into any kind of program which is determined in a specific way.

I would like to say again that it is a good deal. We believe that the Varity answers were good for the workers, for the country and for the Province of Ontario. I believe it is all everybody wanted, and it is what we reached.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, the minister is quite right. The federal government's share is \$15 million out of \$25 million.

This is a government that desperately needs to demonstrate that it is concerned about workers. I repeat my question: Why can't this government show the same sensitivity as the New Democratic Government of Ontario and earmark those funds specifically, which have been generated by the actions of Varity and which have affected workers, or delegate those funds specifically for the benefit of workers and not his corporate friends?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Ontario decided to use the money in the way it wanted to use the money. The Government of Canada could make another decision. It does not mean, as my hon. friend hinted, that it will not be done for the workers.

There are different means for the government to delegate money for workers and those companies. He is yelling at my friends from the business community. I think it is very helpful sometimes when those companies that my friend is yelling at for a little while could create jobs. I believe it is very good as an answer for the Government of Ontario. It is good for us too to use the money in the way we believe we can help Canadians.

* * *

• (1450)

[Translation]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Seven million Canadians are supposed to receive a cheque before the GST becomes effective. These cheques are supposed to reach them in December, before Christmas. Considering the fact that the Liberal senators and Jean Chrétien are continuing their obstructionist tactics to delay the coming into effect of the GST, will the minister nevertheless be able to send these cheques to Cana