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ping them in the middle of their careers, people who are only in their early 40s. Work at Pointe-Noire has started, but this will not be enough. We will need substantial assistance this winter, and funds will have to be allocated immediately to put people back to work, because if things go on as they are now, I think the North Shore may soon have a number of social problems. I would therefore appreciate it if the ministers would act as responsibly as they have in the past.

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[English]

## INDUSTRY

RED STAR EXPRESS—EFFECT OF SCHEDULE CHANGE ON EMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Madam Speaker, there is a serious problem confronting the trucking industry, not only in my riding of Erie but in Canada as a whole. An American firm, Red Star Express, based in New York State, runs a trans-border service to Toronto. Originally American drivers took the loads as far as Fort Erie where Canadian men took over for the drive to Toronto. Now, in a move aimed at streamlining the operation, the parent company decided it would cease to switch drivers in Fort Erie. It intends to close the Fort Erie terminal and send the American drivers all the way to Toronto. The result is that 14 Canadians are out of work.

I believe the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) should take firm and decisive action to stem the tide of shutdowns of Canadian operations at the expense of Canadian jobs. With 1.5 million people unemployed we cannot ignore the dangerous precedent of Red Star. Five thousand jobs are at stake should other American operators take this cue and follow suit.

The Red Star decision appears all the more reprehensible in light of the fact it was approved by FIRA in 1975 to take over two existing Canadian operators. Although there were no agreements on undertakings with regard to hiring Canadians to drive in this country, surely the company has an ethical and moral obligation to continue employing Canadians.

In light of the above it is necessary to take some kind of action. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Transport to meet with his provincial counterparts and with representatives of the trucking industry to decide what must be done to ensure that Red Star and similar companies continue to provide jobs for Canadians.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SRI LANKA—INDIA'S OFFER TO ASSIST WITH CONCILIATION

**Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Madam Speaker, I would like to echo the concern many of us have over the situation in Sri Lanka where earlier this summer there was a massacre of a large number of the Tamil population, and where the Leader of the Opposition, whom we met

yesterday, is no longer able to return to his country because under the new constitutional reforms his party and his position have been virtually annihilated.

I ask that the Government of Canada do two things. First, urge the Government of Sri Lanka to accept the offer of the Prime Minister and Government of India to use their good offices in bringing peace and security to the country of Sri Lanka. Indeed, I think the Prime Minister of Canada could take that initiative, I hope he will, when he is talking next with members of the Government of Sri Lanka, and we would like to see, particularly on behalf of the Tamils, that offer taken up by the Government.

Secondly, I would hope Canadian aid in Sri Lanka is distributed in such a way that the Tamil population will be—

**Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Member's time has expired.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

U.S.S.R.—SHOOTING DOWN OF KOREAN AIRLINER—PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. While he was absent all last week travelling both in and out of the country—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Rossi:** Where were you?

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. We have not started yet, and I do not know if we will ever get to the end of it.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Madam Speaker, while the Prime Minister was travelling, no doubt on official business, he introduced a troubling new dimension into a recent foreign policy matter. The Prime Minister repeatedly referred to the shooting down of the Korean airliner as an accident. Is it now the official position of the Government of Canada that the Korean airliner tragedy, in which ten Canadians lost their lives, was in fact an accident?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I am glad the Hon. Leader of the Opposition missed me last week. I can assure him that I missed this old place and I was thinking of him often when I was travelling through the Provinces and to the United Nations. I even missed him when I was talking to my Quebec colleagues on Sunday.

**Mr. Crosbie:** The last round-up.

**Mr. Hees:** You better do better than that, Pierre; you are slowing down.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!