

Oral Questions

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, why does the Hon. Member try to create insecurity in the minds of the workers?

Mr. Broadbent: Insecurity?

Mr. de Cotret: Why is he out there all the time spreading information which will make the workers less secure? Under Crown ownership, in Canadair more than 2,000 jobs were lost between 1981 and 1983. Let the Hon. Member talk to those people. Let him talk to those people from de Havilland who lost jobs on what they think about job security under Crown ownership. And then let the Hon. Member tell those employees that with the Boeing deal, with the world product mandate, with its access to foreign markets, they are getting more job security than they ever had before.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Minister that he is the one who is insecure in this situation.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER TALK TO WORKERS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Considering the Government talked a lot about consultation before the election, and talked a lot about it since the election, and the men and women whose lives are going to be directly affected by this decision are in opposition to the Government, will the Government—and the Minister, specifically—at least have the integrity to go to de Havilland and explain its case to the workers? Will he do that?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): The case, Mr. Speaker, was explained to the workers in a number of working sessions, and all available information will also be made available to the workers. They are going to be fully briefed. They have been fully briefed.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): They have?

Mr. de Cotret: Yes, they have been fully briefed. We have maintained our commitment to keep the workers abreast of what we were doing and why this deal was good for them, good for the company, and good for Canada.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, maybe the workers at de Havilland know a little better than the Minister about the facts of the case. The fact is that Boeing in the United States just in the last four years laid off 20,000 employees. That is 20,000 Boeing lay-offs in the United States. Maybe the Canadian workers have a right to be concerned about what this Government is doing now.

Mr. Deans: It has a world product mandate.

CLOSING DATE FOR SALE CONTRACT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Will the Minister confirm that the termination date, the date beyond which the

Government cannot go to extricate itself from this deal, is March 3, 1986? Will he also confirm that if the Government comes to its senses, in our view, and wants to get out of the deal—in terms of the contract which has been signed—it in fact can do so with a minimal cost, paying the cost only which would cover incidental fees like legal costs and public relations? Will the Minister answer both of those questions now?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will answer both questions. First, it is interesting to see the Hon. Member following so closely the progress of a corporation outside the country. I would like to point out that in Canada Boeing created new jobs.

An Hon. Member: In Winnipeg.

Mr. de Cotret: In Winnipeg. The Hon. Member should talk to the people in Winnipeg and ask them if they are happy.

An Hon. Member: Right on.

Mr. de Cotret: In answer to the Hon. Member's second question, we have no intention whatsoever of extricating ourselves from this deal. It is a good deal for Canada and we are going to go ahead with it.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. He should know that the Boeing Corporation has a very strict research and development policy under which all research and development operations are based in the United States. Has the Government of Canada ensured that this policy will change vis-à-vis de Havilland? And what are the conditions in the Government's agreement with Boeing that guarantee that de Havilland's research and development operations will remain and be developed here in Canada?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): First, Mr. Speaker, the understanding with Boeing clearly indicates that the research and development which is done by de Havilland Canada will stay in Canada by virtue of the fact that it is incorporated into the Dash-7 and Dash-8, which will continue to be produced with a world product mandate at Downsview.

Mr. Broadbent: There are no guarantees for R and D.

Mr. de Cotret: In the case of augmentor wing technology, the rights to that technology belong to the Crown.

Mr. Deans: It already has a world product mandate.

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF GUARANTEES

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are concerned about the next generation of technology. We want