

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, again I commend my hon. friend for his interest in the subject. I think it is his interest and the work of the House committee which led to a close examination of the problem he raises. Given the fact that a number of financial institutions have made it clear in the last few days that their interest rates are under review, I am more hopeful. Also I should like to say that the provincial Ministers will be discussing the matter shortly at the federal-provincial level. It is not just a question of financial institutions, but it is broader than that. If rates do not come down, as I have said before, we will consider the best way to proceed.

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[Translation]

**INDUSTRY**

## GRANT MADE TO COLECO—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. It concerns Coleco. It has just been reported, according to the American vice-president of Coleco, Barbara Wruck, that the Montreal shutdown was part of a restructuring plan devised in 1982, and my question is this: Since the Government approved a \$500,000 grant to that company last year, did the company mislead the Government in negotiating that grant?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I was not part of the negotiations, so I am unable to answer the question. I presume the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion was the Minister responsible, although I am not quite sure the Hon. Member stated specifically what program it was under. However, I will bring the matter to his attention and will get an answer back to him.

**Mr. Langdon:** It seems to me that the case is self-evident, that a serious and very unfortunate misleading took place.

## CLOSURE OF AMERICAN SUBSIDIARY PLANTS IN CANADA

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. What assurance can the Government give us that this will not be the pattern which takes place under any free trade agreement right across the board in Canada, with subsidiaries shut down here to keep plants open in the United States? What possible guarantee can be given to the people of Canada?

[Translation]

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, if that is to be used to link it to free trade negotiations, the Coleco situation in Montreal is this—the grants that were extended generated in Montreal at the time investments of \$8 million by that company. The \$1.5 million in grants the company received were extended

under applicable standards and there is no question of any trickery. In fact, for the last project for which Coleco accepted a grant, it exceeded its job creation goal by 150 per cent.

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[English]

**WAR CRIMINALS**

## ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO UNITED NATIONS FILES

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The United Nations is currently holding 38,000 closed files on war criminals from World War II. Access to these files has been requested by Israel, and the United Nations Secretariat consulted member states on their advice about whether the files should be opened. This weekend, *The New York Times* printed the names of the countries which recommended that Israel not be given access. Why is Canada on that list? Why did Canada refuse Israel access to these files?

• (1500)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the position of Canada has been that files should be open to access by judicial and quasi-judicial bodies and official investigative agencies, which is the usual safeguard, as the allegations in the files have never been subjected to judicial process or legal evaluation.

## REQUEST THAT CANADA AGREE TO ALLOW ACCESS

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the result of that tortured answer is that the files may never be open. Is Canada prepared to say yes and allow a responsible member of the United Nations to have access to those files?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** We would be prepared to allow those files to be open to access by judicial and quasi-judicial bodies, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Kaplan:** Not Israel?

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**FISHERIES**

## LABRADOR SHRIMP PROCESSING PLANTS

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Today we have reports that the federal Government will ban Danish vessels from fishing shrimp in Canadian waters. In Labrador, two co-operatives provide jobs for 1,300 workers in communities such as St. Mary's Harbour, Cartwright, Rigolet, Nain and L'Anse-au-Loup. They do that in exchange for a sufficient