

### Oral Questions

#### AST CANADA INC.

**Mr. Harry Chadwick (Bramalea—Gore—Malton):** Mr. Speaker, I am always pleased to learn that a new company is opening in my riding, but the recent opening of AST Canada Inc. had particular significance not only to the riding but to the rest of Canada.

AST Research Inc., a leading North American manufacturer of high-performance personal computers, has maintained a sales presence in Canada since 1986. AST's fiscal 1990 revenues surpassed \$.5 billion U.S.

AST Research Inc. proves that North American companies are staying in Canada and are continuing to invest in our economy. The recent opening of AST Canada Inc. is a reflection of the confidence in the global importance of Canadian business. The fact that AST Canada Inc. is fully staffed by Canadians indicates the depth of the commitment AST has to Canada.

With expansion continuing to include regional offices in Montreal and Vancouver, AST is demonstrating the kind of positive attitude toward partnership that is necessary as the world and Canada adapt to an increasingly global market.

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## ORAL QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### FOREIGN INVESTMENT

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister.

The vast majority of Canadians do not approve of the excessively high deficit Bob Rae has inflicted on Ontario. However, we believe the people of Ontario will be able to deal with this problem three years and four months from now, when an election is held and they will be able to elect a Liberal government in Ontario once again.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

**Mr. Chrétien:** I therefore want to ask the Acting Prime Minister why the Prime Minister raised this matter in Asia? Why is he washing Canada's dirty linen in Japan?

Why is he giving the impression that a large part of Canada does not want foreign investment?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite unfortunate that the hon. Leader of the Opposition wants to dwell on this particular issue because he knows as well as anyone else that the public finances of any nation are of important interest to Japan, which invests dollars in Canada. The fact of the matter is that there are concerns about it.

Just to set the record straight, and I want to assure the hon. member and other members of the House, the Prime Minister has been in Japan promoting Canada, all regions of Canada: Ontario, western Canada, the Atlantic region, the north, Quebec.

If there was any suggestion over the fact that the Japanese were not interested in the public finances, all one has to do is read the *Globe and Mail* this morning which says in an article by Edith Terry—

**Mr. McCurdy:** Who is she?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** She happens to be in Japan with the *Globe and Mail*. She is not sitting here, making assumptions, guesses and interpretations. This is what she said: "However, participants at the summit said the Japanese had raised the issue of Canada's public finances before Mr. Mulroney arrived at the meeting". So, obviously his comment was appropriate.

• (1420)

I think what is most important is to summarize the words of Mr. d'Aquino, who said: "I have not heard the Prime Minister say anything that was not terribly bullish".

We have just heard a comprehensive speech, an excellent speech. To suggest there was anything partisan in it would be searching, Mr. Speaker.

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### REFUGEES

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, a lot of us in this House have had the occasion to visit refugee camps. There is nothing more tragic than the plight of a refugee, someone who is homeless and too often without hope.