

of the serious situation facing this continent regarding acid rain. Have he and his officials been contemplating any legislation which would reduce automobile emissions in Canada to a level in line with those in effect in the United States at the present time?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is no, we are not contemplating legislation at the present time. However, we are organizing public hearings to be held here in Ottawa on the third, fourth, and fifth of December, to study the relationship between motor vehicle exhaust emissions and their impact on acid rain. Following those public hearings we hope to ascertain information as to whether or not appropriate changes should be made to the Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

* * *

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST FOR DETAILS CONCERNING POSSIBLE JOB LOSSES IN RESEARCH AND IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board.

With reference to the answers, or should I say non-answers, he gave my hon. friend from Laval-des-Rapides to a very specific question, namely, how many jobs would be lost in the ridings of Trois-Rivières and Lotbinière, as a result of certain projects not materializing or being abandoned, jobs that may be lost not only at the research level but also in construction, could the Minister inform the House why he did not give the answer if he has the figures? Second, were the members for Trois-Rivières and Lotbinière consulted on the matter and finally, did they agree with the decision?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I may inform my hon. friend that the Members in question were consulted.

As far as the lost jobs are concerned, I think that through redeployment of the funds that were earmarked for the region concerned, many more permanent jobs will be created than was the case when such funds were spent in the past.

INQUIRY ABOUT POSSIBLE JOB LOSSES IN VICTORIAVILLE AND TROIS-RIVIÈRES, P.Q.

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, what I am asking the President of the Treasury Board is quite simple. He has been president of a bank—I am asking him to keep his figures simple. Could he inform the House whether any calculations were made with respect to the two projects that were supposed to create jobs in Victoriaville and Trois-Rivières. How many jobs have now been lost in

Oral Questions

construction? How many jobs will not be created? The answer should not be too difficult.

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, since the funds are going to be re-directed to the Laprade Fund, it is not a matter of funds or jobs being lost. On the contrary, additional jobs will be created.

* * *

● (1450)

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CENTRAL AMERICA—PROPOSED DRAFT PEACE TREATY

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your elevation to key responsibility in the House.

My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In September the Contadora nations, led by Mexico and Columbia, proposed a draft treaty aimed at bringing peace to Central America, including an end to the U.S. backed invasion of Nicaragua. In view of Nicaragua's offer to sign the treaty, the offer of France and other nations to sign the protocol of support, and the U.S. State Department's boast that they have blocked the Contadora treaty, will the Minister now publicly indicate that Canada will also sign the protocol of support to the Contadora treaty, and urge the United States to do the same?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we continue to have some very serious reservations about the effectiveness of the verification procedures in the Contadora agreement as it now stands. We hope that that can be improved. We support wholeheartedly the Contadora process. On the 26th of this month I am meeting with the ambassadors of the Contadora countries here in Ottawa. I understand that the ambassador for Nicaragua has announced today at a press conference that he is seeking a meeting with officials of my Government. We will be delighted to meet with him. We very much want to have his assessment of the situation in Nicaragua. We will continue to exercise our influence in a way which will not only advance the Contadora process but give us a result which will help bring stability to that area.

VERIFICATION PROCESS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the news that the Minister will be meeting with these other Ministers on this urgent matter within a few days.

If the Minister has, as he says, reservations about the verification process in the Contadora treaty, will he be offering Canada's well known expertise in the matter of verification for the assistance of the Contadora Ministers in working out a treaty that Canada will then sign?