

Oral Questions

garbage come in Canada? Is that the kind of free trade the Minister has in mind?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I notice that the hon. member for Papineau—Saint-Michel, who lives in Ottawa, is not very knowledgeable about what is happening in East Montreal. The government I represent has provided more than \$13 million worth of investment in new industries and of existing industries through its industrial revitalization program for East Montreal during the past year. The program has also attracted investment by the private sector totalling more than \$70 million. I think it makes much better sense and is much better for a region's economy when a government helps thriving businesses come in instead of trying to support businesses that cannot pay their way.

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• (1140)

BURIAL OF U.S. WASTE

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Environment, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Yesterday, the Minister of the Environment accused his provincial counterpart of being inconsistent because it only costs \$12.50 to bury a ton of garbage in Quebec compared with \$100 in the United States. Do the government and the Minister of the Environment suggest increasing the cost to \$100 so that Quebec municipalities will pay the same as in the United States? Is he serious? That statement is outrageous. Therefore I call upon the Deputy Prime Minister to ask the Minister of the Environment to withdraw that absurd statement, because his proposal would increase taxes to a level unacceptable to Quebecers. Mr. Bouchard, are you listening to me?

[English]

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague announced yesterday that he would review a ban on the importation of garbage and any dangerous substances that have crossed the border. My colleague, the Hon. Minister of National Revenue, announced in a departmental co-operation the development of a memorandum of understanding that will allow

us to strengthen our monitoring procedures to stop these waste substances coming from the United States. That is all I heard my hon. colleague say yesterday, and I think it is in the spirit in which the hon. member wishes us to proceed.

[Translation]

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Deputy Prime Minister. When will the federal government start doing its job instead of always making absurd demands on the Quebec government. We have been told that legislation and regulations will be forthcoming. When? When will he really understand that American waste is not welcome in Canada? If you truly intend to introduce a bill, when can we expect it?

[English]

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, let me provide my hon. friend with some startling facts. There have been movements of garbage, not just from the United States to waste sites in Canada but the other way around as well. As I have told the hon. member, it is the intention of the federal government to work co-operatively with the provinces which have, after all, the regulatory authority.

I understand that the province of Quebec has banned all the importation of waste substances to that province. I would assume that other provinces will follow, and when they do, they will, of course, have to desist from moving their own garbage across the border to sites that are more convenient and perhaps less costly in terms of transportation of these materials.

We intend to co-operate with the provinces to catch any rascal that will continue to do what is not acceptable to us in Canada.

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[Translation]

TOXIC WASTE

M. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.