

*Oral Questions*

• (1450)

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, Bill C-113 is presently before the House.

According to our parliamentary process, the bill will go to a legislative committee. At that time members will have a chance to ask questions of the officials as to the situation of the UI account, of the bill and everything pertaining to it. I invite him to do just that.

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**TAXATION**

**Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Presently Canadian corporations are experiencing the lowest profit margins in history, including the Great Depression. In fact approximately 50 per cent of our corporations are operating at a loss.

Recently the NDP proposed to increase the minimum corporate tax. Could the Minister of Finance explain what effect this tax increase will have on the current business climate and the current unemployment situation?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, it is true that the level of corporate profits is at an all-time low. It is true that it is important to maintain in place a competitive tax regime that is consistent with the competitive norms in the industrialized world. While Canada is about in the centre of the G-7 countries, it is still somewhat higher than the United States.

I agree with the hon. member when she asks what the result of an additional corporate tax burden will be. I can only refer to what is happening in Ontario.

I read from the *Stoney Creek News* a headline which says "Ron Foxcroft temporarily relocates to the United States". It goes on to say:

"We moved to North Tonawanda temporarily until the Bob Rae government is defeated," said Foxworth.

He is shocked with what he calls the detrimental business practices of Ontario's NDP government, he said—

"The day after the Bob Rae government is defeated, I'll be back".

**AIRLINES**

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport.

The minister knows that prior to Christmas when an advance was made to Canadian Airlines, Canadian Airlines cut back on the services provided. After that Nationair, which is an airline that does not even pay landing fees and apparently owes the government in excess of \$7 million, was allowed to institute service between Toronto and Ottawa, and Toronto and Montreal.

Why did the minister allow those services to be instituted when Nationair owed the government money? Why is that service allowed to continue as long as Nationair owes money to the government?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the member knows that we have a policy of making sure that competition exists in the airline industry.

The travelling public has benefited from the reduced rates. We cannot know in advance whether a company is going to make money on a certain route or not.

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**BILL C-91**

**Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

This morning Winnipeggers found out the true meaning of Bill C-91. Instead of the much-promised new money for research, they found out that Apotex, a Canadian-owned generic drug company was cancelling a major project in Manitoba.

Will the minister now admit that the legislation is devastating to the Canadian generic drug companies and that changes must be made immediately to the legislation to protect them?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I caution my friend to read carefully what the Apotex people said.