

will be released to the public. They will be announced at the earliest opportunity, and Montreal will benefit from measures taken by a Government which is concerned about the economic development and the economic future of Montreal and its residents.

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SHIPYARDS

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF MINISTER'S ALLEGED STATEMENT CONCERNING RATIONALIZATION OF QUEBEC SHIPYARDS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Small Businesses).

Why did he mislead the people of Sorel last week by telling 2,000 demonstrators on Parliament Hill that the Government had never given the president of Versatile Vickers a mandate for rationalizing shipyards in Quebec? Why did he say that?

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, I repeat, we never gave Mr. Saunders a mandate for rationalizing or shutting down any business whatsoever, either in Sorel or anywhere else in Quebec.

ENQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT CAN CONFIRM DISCUSSIONS WILL BE HELD TO ESTABLISH SHIPBUILDING POLICY

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): In that case, Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Will the Minister now confirm before the House that he intends to meet the commitment he made to those 2,000 people from Sorel, namely that there would be discussions with the shipyards and the unions in order to establish a Canadian shipbuilding policy?

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Small Businesses)): Mr. Speaker, I could do without comments from the Liberal Member for shutting down businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that last week I was delighted to meet the people from Sorel and to reassure them about what was happening in Quebec and to put a stop to those negative rumours the Liberal Members have been spreading with their talk about shutdowns, shutdowns and more shutdowns. The only one who is talking about shutdowns here, Mr. Speaker, is the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie.

• (1450)

[English]

Oral Questions

ENERGY

DIESEL, HOME HEATING, AND AVIATION FUEL PRICES

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has done very well in getting the price of gasoline down.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Ellis: When will the Minister or her Parliamentary Secretary be able to advise us of some success in terms of bringing down the price of diesel fuel, which fuels the trucks on our highways, the price of home heating oil for senior citizens, and more particularly the price of general aviation gas which is still particularly high?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): In the fullness of time, Mr. Speaker.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN CROPS AND FOOD

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. As the Minister knows, repeated scientific studies have reported the presence of toxic substances in crops and food. In view of mounting public preoccupation with health, will the Minister undertake to launch immediately a study on the presence of toxic chemicals in food, based upon a broad national sample?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think that is a reasonable representation. It is an idea with which my Department and I are wrestling. Some of the concern is based upon a major study done by Kate Davies through the auspices of the International Joint Commission, which the federal Government helped to fund. However, I think the study was fairly limited in the sense that it focused upon only seven toxic chemicals. It was certainly not on the broad range of toxic chemicals the Hon. Member has called to have studied. In light of those circumstances, the representation he has made has been well taken by me and by my Department.

WITHDRAWAL OF STORM WARNINGS PUBLICATION

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, while the Minister is wrestling with this proposal—and I hope it will not be for too long—will he release the *Storm Warnings* report which he stopped, or at least undertake to reinstate the Guelph Toxicology Centre which the Minister of Finance wiped out in his November, 1984, Budget.