

*Oral Questions*

● (1415)

It is vital for Timiskaming to have the same boundaries after the hearing as it has today. Eleven voices in northern Ontario are very important.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD***[English]***REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT****NORTHERN ONTARIO—THREATENED CLOSURE OF WAWA MINE**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Yesterday the Government ignored the request we made to help the workers at the CN shops in Moncton, despite the rhetoric of the Minister of Transport and the Prime Minister's promises made on his recent visit to Atlantic Canada. Today my question relates to northern Ontario.

The Conservative Government announced a widely heralded recovery package for northern Ontario, yet it has revealed no details. Why will the Government not be more specific? Why will it not come to the aid of some of the endangered workers at the Algoma Ore mine in Wawa, Ontario?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the House last week, this federal Government, perhaps unprecedented in recent times, has recognized the unique difficulties in northern Ontario. The Government is prepared to address those difficulties. We have had meetings in northern Ontario. Led by the Solicitor General an economic plan is being considered. As the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicated in the House the other day, as did the Minister of Transport, the specific question relating to Wawa is currently being considered by DRIE officials, and by others. I can tell the right hon. gentleman that this Government, unlike the Government of which he was a member, is prepared to deal with the very critical and serious problems that affect northern Ontario.

*[Translation]***FUTURE OF WAWA IRON ORE MINE—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I can inform the Deputy Prime Minister that I was in Geraldton, Ontario last week, and that Northern Ontario is sick and tired of the empty promises and false hopes held out by the Government.

Why did the Government announce a recovery plan without even revealing the details? And why isn't the Government prepared to provide assistance to the railways to help maintain mining jobs in Wawa?

*[English]*

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, because, unlike the previous Government, we sit down and work these problems out with those who are directly affected. We think that northern Ontario, by virtue of its basic strengths, can build on those strengths and together we can develop the kind of comprehensive program to which the Hon. Member refers.

I can tell the right hon. gentleman that at a meeting in Sudbury a couple of weeks ago there was great enthusiasm shown for the approach the Government is taking. I can assure the Hon. Member that if he is patient he will see the type of policies and programs that he wishes his Government had come up with when it was in office.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**ALGOMA CENTRAL RAILWAY—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Deputy Prime Minister is beginning to test my patience. He has certainly tested the patience of the people of northern Ontario.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Last week in response to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Cochrane—Superior, the Deputy Prime Minister said, in respect to northern Ontario: "Just watch us". He made the same type of commitment to the CN workers in Moncton, which shows how much that particular engagement is worth.

The Minister knows that the Algoma Central Railway is subsidized for passenger and tourist travel. Why not give some aid to the railway in order to preserve those jobs in Wawa, those jobs which concern 300 to 350 miners, 350 railway workers, and the health of the economy from Sault Ste Marie right up to Wawa on the east end of the lake?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, it has been said before, and I will repeat it, there is a program that is being considered under the auspices of DRIE. Ministers have met with representatives of this particular area. I am sure that there will be a satisfactory solution. When the Right Hon. Member talks about patience, I can only tell him that in the last election those people up there lost their patience with the Liberal Government, which is why they elected so many Tory MPs, which is what they will continue to do in the future.

● (1420)

**POSSIBLE LOSS OF JOBS TO MICHIGAN**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Is he aware that, because of the lack of assistance for the Algoma Central Railway, hundreds and hundreds of miners in Wawa will lose their jobs because those jobs will effectively be transferred