

*Oral Questions*

been done of this Order in Council decision consistent with the policy of cabinet that was announced in June of 1990. That is something that was not done by previous governments. It is a new policy, and that is part of the announcement we made. Second, let us be completely honest about this. The fact of the matter is that the NDP is against NATO, it is against collective defence, it is against anything to do with any co-operation with other countries in the area of defence. Whether there would be an environmental assessment or not has nothing to do with the position of the member for Skeena.

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• (1440)

**TRADE**

**Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale):** Mr. Speaker, the minister of industry claims that he must spend over \$15 million and delay economic actions for at least a year so that he can find out what Canadians already know.

Will the minister recognize that there are many areas in his prosperity primer where there is consensus where he can act today.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, there may be consensus between my hon. friend and myself as to areas in which we might want to act. I would appreciate it if he would tell us where those areas might be. I think he does think more along our ways than the member for Windsor West or the member for Winnipeg South Centre.

The only point I should make is that we have to work together more to develop the consensus between yourself and Mr. Axworthy and Mr. Gray.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale):** Mr. Speaker, he is really scraping the bottom of the barrel there.

Two days ago, a Toronto manufacturer entered the office of the Program for Export Market Development, PEMD. He sought \$1,500 to promote the sale of his product in Europe. He was told: "Sorry, PEMD is out of funds until next April".

Why does this government have over \$15 million to spend flogging its prosperity primer but not even \$1,500

to help one of Canada's exporters go head to head in the world market?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to get in to the internal machinations of the Liberal caucus, but I do not think he should refer to the ideas of his colleagues as being the bottom of the barrel.

**An hon. member:** I think he is right.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. minister should refer to them by their riding names.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my friend raises a good point. The budget for PEMD, the Program for Export Market Development, is very tight. It is one indication of the very positive response of Canadians toward exporting. That is precisely what we are trying to promote in this document that I tabled on Tuesday. We will continue to work on it.

As far as the budget is concerned, we are discussing that to see whether there are ways of stretching that budget more than has been the case because of this tremendous response and the tremendous desire of Canadians to export.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour.

A year ago last summer over 2,400 miners in Elliot Lake lost their jobs when the mines shut down. Now their unemployment insurance has run out and they are facing welfare.

The minister has had a report on his desk since the end of August to provide pensions for some 260 older workers under the POWA program.

I want to ask the minister when these pensions are going to be paid? Tomorrow is November 1. These miners do not have UI benefits any more.

**Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the Program for Older Workers Adjustment is one where both levels of government have to authorize the payments.