

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

CONSEQUENCES OF INVESTMENT IN PRATT & WHITNEY PLANT

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, in an article in *La Presse*, under the byline of Gilbert Lavoie, we read that once again, Quebecers have been cheated by this Conservative Government. On February 14, the Conservative Government announced with a great deal of fanfare that \$575 million was being invested in the Pratt & Whitney plant. Unfortunately, this was not the whole truth. First of all, the project had already been proved under the previous Liberal Government in 1983. Furthermore, yesterday I met with company management, and they emphatically denied any statements to the effect that the Prime Minister intervened personally to have jobs created in Montreal East. Lastly, the Ministers involved forgot to mention that 40 per cent of the jobs to be created will be outside Quebec. Mr. Speaker, this just goes to show you can never trust the Conservatives.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

SITUATION OF FARMERS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the farmers of the country who are sadly disappointed in the Budget of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). The bits and pieces given to assist the debt-burdened farmer represent the Government's attitude towards farming. So serious is the Government to assist farmers that it is willing to help farmers with retraining. In other words it is telling farmers to go out of business and not to hope for support from the Government.

● (1415)

During the election campaign Ministers promised all sorts of goodies to the agricultural community. Now it is time to deliver; not tomorrow but today. Farmers are in need of help, and it is the duty and responsibility of the Government to provide it.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

RECEPTION BY BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

Oral Questions

Why is the Minister making this unprecedented effort to try and sell his Budget to businessmen and corporations in the United States? Is it because the Canadian business community and international markets have lost confidence in his Budget and his Government?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): No, absolutely not, Mr. Speaker. Let me just draw to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition that since the Budget was brought in the stock market has gone up every day—Thursday, Friday, Monday, and again today. It is up 42 points over those four days. That is confidence in the Budget.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

OFFICIALS' MEETINGS WITH AMERICANS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the Minister, his Deputy Minister, and his officials to try to persuade the Americans that there is some merit in the Budget are absolutely without precedent. The Minister is on a string. He has become a puppet of Wall Street.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): He is being coached by the Prime Minister. I do not know whether the coach ought to send the signals into the quarterback; I do not think it will improve it at all.

Mr. Mulroney: Your quarterback is gone.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Question, please.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Would the Minister of Finance tell us what his officials are telling Americans in private meetings which he is not telling Canadians?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that sort of question is ridiculous. The officials are in the United States, the same as they have been in meetings here with different interested parties, to explain the various elements of the Budget. There is nothing unprecedented about it. It is the same type of information which is being provided to people in Canada and the United States. I am sure the High Commission in London is doing the same thing.

EFFECT ON EXCHANGE VALUE OF DOLLAR

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, there has never been an effort like this for a Department of Finance and a Minister to sell a Budget abroad. Usually a Minister is content with trying to explain it to Canadians, but the Minister has to sell it around the world in order to maintain strength in our currency. He told us to wait for the Budget to see whether the dollar would be stabilized.