

*Oral Questions*

every time I have received specific representations I have drawn them to the attention of the Inspector General of Banks who then raises them with the banks concerned.

If the Hon. Member has a specific case, and if he wishes to make the details available to me, I will make sure that it is picked up with the proper bank. However, I might take this opportunity to point out to the Hon. Member that I know of thousands of cases where banks have agreed to reschedule the debts of small businesses and farmers. I do not think the Hon. Member is representing the situation quite accurately.

In addition, I think he should welcome the reduction of the prime rate by the Royal Bank to 11.5 per cent on Friday. I hope the other banks will follow suit and that we will continue to see a reduction of interest rates.

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**AVIATION INDUSTRY****ANNOUNCED CLOSURE OF CAE AIRCRAFT LIMITED IN WINNIPEG**

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Today in Winnipeg CAE Aircraft Limited announced it is closing, with a loss of 80 jobs in that city. In 1969 when the Government of Canada moved repair work out of Winnipeg, it guaranteed alternative employment, including 700 jobs. In 1974 the Prime Minister promised aircraft repair work for Winnipeg, in that year's election campaign.

The aerospace industry in Winnipeg, the Manitoba Government and the people of Manitoba want to know whether the Minister is prepared to enforce the agreement to provide aircraft work in Manitoba, particularly in light of this closing today?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I think, if the Hon. Member would like to look at the record over the years since 1969, he would realize that the Government has directed a large number of job opportunities toward the aerospace industry in Manitoba, that Companies have been able to tender on a number of contracts that were available, and that there has been a number of expansions of programs in companies and firms in the City of Winnipeg.

As far as CAE is concerned, over the past year and a half my own Department has worked very closely with them on the development of a work-sharing program and other support. Finally it came to a point in time when they were unable to secure work comparable with the kind of equipment facilities they could offer. As I have said before, we cannot replace those kinds of judgments for the marketplace, although we have done our utmost in trying to support CAE in the work they have done and in trying to keep their workforce together. My Department will continue to work to make sure that the workers displaced under that lay-off or closing will find alternative employment.

[*Translation*]

**PETRO-CANADA****ALLEGED EXISTENCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, I would like to get back to the first question put to the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada. At first, the Prime Minister was hesitant about giving the House the information requested by Hon. Members on the possibility of a conflict of interest, not the evidence thereof. In the circumstances, could the Prime Minister now inform the House, in the light of the questions that have been asked, whether he is willing to table in the House all information available, that is, all documentation of initial negotiations that took place between the Federal Government and Petro-Canada—documentation that is as wide-ranging as possible, and that has not been screened by the Prime Minister—to find out whether there was a conflict of interest.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I just answered this question, and I said that I was not aware that such documents existed. I did not know what the Hon. Member was talking about. I first would have to check whether there are such documents and whether their contents were relevant, and I would then report to the House as soon as I have this information. Meanwhile, if Opposition Members have any relevant facts, it is their duty and certainly their privilege to do so. However, I have heard only insinuations and questions and suggestions that conflict of interest guidelines have been violated, although the dates mentioned by the Opposition show that there was no such violation. Therefore, until I receive evidence to the contrary, all I can say now is that I shall look into the matter, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. La Salle:** I have a supplementary, Madam Speaker. If I understand correctly, the Prime Minister is now asking us to prove there was a conflict of interest. I think that in view of the fact that the person concerned, namely Mr. Gillespie, is a former Minister, the Prime Minister should be prepared to table all documents pertinent to this matter, starting with the initial discussions between the Crown corporation, the Government, Mr. Gillespie and others. That is all we are asking in order to provide some clarification to the public on this important transaction. Furthermore, if there was no conflict of interest, the Prime Minister should be more than willing to table the documents. Why the hesitation? That is the question. Why is the Prime Minister taking this attitude today? Why is he so hesitant about publishing documents which are a public matter?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is asking me why I am hesitant. The explanation is simple. It is because of the questions put by his leader and by the energy critic, alleging that there was a conflict of interest because the former Minister had acted within a two-year period. The fact is that if