

*Oral Questions*

have better things to do than to have their recommendations ignored?

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

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, one of the recommendations that was made by leading scientists and those who are concerned with research and development in Canada was that the Government of Canada finally pass Bill C-22 which would mean hundreds of millions of dollars in new investments. We proceeded with it and the Liberals opposed it.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** Not only did the Liberal Party oppose it in the House of Commons, it opposed it in the Senate. It was the finest instrument for investment in research and development in Canada in the last decade and it was opposed ferociously by the Liberals. It took a commitment by this Government to override that opposition and Bill C-22 is now celebrated by all those who believe in science and technology and R and D in Canada today.

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## TRANSPORT

### DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION OF *POLAR 8*

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Plans to build the *Polar 8* ice-breaker have again been put on hold. This Government made a promise to Canadians that it would protect our sovereignty. This Government made a promise to northerners to serve their needs.

Last year, with great fanfare in British Columbia, this Government made a \$500 million promise to start the building of the *Polar 8* this spring in West Coast shipyards. Canadians are waiting for the Government to deliver on these promises. Hundreds of jobs are at stake. Will the Minister tell us exactly when the building of the *Polar 8* will begin?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I hope if I tell the truth as the Member has asked me to do, she will deny what was said at the beginning. I would like to be very clear. We are proceeding with the *Polar 8* operation—

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

**Mr. Bouchard (Roberval):** However, there are two issues about which she knows very well. The first is the

sale of the shipyard which is being processed at the present time. The other one is the problem of the design. A proposal has to be made to the Government, which will be made. It is within what we call the first phase of the operation, which is the phase where we look at the design and we look at the shipyard. After that, we will go into the construction phase. On this side of the House we are operating logically with the first phase and the second phase after.

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

### ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** My supplementary is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. We have heard about the promising phase. I would now like to say that last year the Minister entered into an agreement with the United States respecting Arctic sovereignty.

Last week, the Defence Minister said that we might have to depend on our allies to help defend the Arctic. The United States does not even accept our claims to sovereignty in this area.

Will the Minister confirm that what is really happening with the *Polar 8* decision is that this Government is prepared to put our sovereignty in the hands of foreign interests.

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

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely false. I know that in order to be a candidate for the leadership of the New Democratic Party, one has to go to the furthest edges of extremism. The Hon. Member should resist that temptation.

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

### COMMITMENT OF FORMER MINISTER

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, that would almost invite the comment, that in order to be a candidate for the Conservative Party, one has to learn to make promises and never keep them.

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

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I would like to know what phase the former Minister of Transport, the current Member for St. John's West, was in on March 3, 1987, page 3763 of *Hansard* when he said in the House:

We will all be proud in 1993 when we sail through any part of the Arctic archipelago on this new *Polar 8* Conservative ice-breaker.