

*Oral Questions*

respect people, ours is a humanitarian approach and we will continue to work as we have been doing all along.

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**SPACE AGENCY**

**Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology. Yesterday the minister said he would soon announce the names of the architects for the space agency, as well as the government's over-all plan for a space program. He went on to say that the plan would meet with the approval of all Canadians.

Can the minister assure us that the new plan does not undermine the federal government policy and Quebec's efforts in the aerospace sector? Does it not also threaten the original development plan announced by other ministers before him?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleague from Longueuil knows very well that the plan we will unveil with respect to the space agency at Saint-Hubert applies to the rest of Canada as well, and that it will be an excellent plan like other similar plans we have announced so far.

**Mr. Nic Leblanc (Longueuil):** Mr. Speaker, I am not quite satisfied with the answer I got and I am surprised. I have the impression that as a Quebecer the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology has enough complexes to be unable to acknowledge the competence of our experts—

**Mr. Speaker:** I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member, but he should put his question, please.

**Mr. Leblanc (Longueuil):** My question— The point is that he has no confidence in professionals in Quebec. He is about to choose— Will the minister award the space agency contract to a competent Quebec firm?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, of course my colleague is not satisfied with my answer, and that is because it is not

the answer he wanted to have. Still I will continue to give him answers which he feels are the good ones.

With respect to the engineering consultant firm, Mr. Speaker, my colleague found out that Quebec firms were fully qualified for Hibernia since they did land the contract for the structural foundation of the Newfoundland project.

Since the space agency is a Canadian undertaking, as my colleague would know, all Canadian firms were invited to submit tenders. I am sure my colleague will agree—otherwise he would not be as honest as he claims to be—that the government should choose the one firm among all Canadian applicants which will best meet our requirements, according to the rules.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleague agrees with the principle that a company cannot be awarded a contract simply because it is based in Quebec. The job will go to Quebec firms if they are qualified to do the work, Mr. Speaker.

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**FORESTRY**

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology.

The Canada-Quebec subsidiary agreement on forestry development expired last April. Right away, in co-operation with the Minister of Forestry, the Minister drafted and submitted an offer to the Government of Quebec on August 24 this year. My question is this: Why are Quebec forestry producers being ignored today by Quebec Minister Albert Côté, at a time when they desperately need this money? Quebec forestry workers are sick and tired of waiting. Mr. Minister, are you going to do something? We know that our people in Quebec are ready!

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked a very good question. It is true that on August 24, the Minister of Forestry sent the Government of Quebec a proposal for negotiating a forestry agreement. The reply we received recently from the Government of Quebec was that the Government of Quebec would determine its position in terms of its priorities.