

stick of furniture and every piece of carpet will be made in Canada? If we cannot protect our Canadian interests in our Parliament Buildings where can we protect them?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague. Certainly I agree with the proposition he has put forward.

I understand from my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, that the uniforms to which he referred was an experimental or a pilot project. Basically the uniforms are purchased here in Canada.

He talked about a carpet. That was really the option of the contractor. It had nothing to do with the specifications from Public Works. I certainly endorse the policy he has put forward and I would be glad to work with him on it.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, my question is also about cross-border shopping, and I guess it is appropriate to address this one to the minister of energy.

What is the government's reaction to the fact that Petro-Canada, the Canadian company, the company for Canadians, our company, the one with the big maple leaf normally on its trucks as its logo, has sneaked a truck across the border from Windsor to Detroit to buy cheap American gas to bring it back and sell it in Canada? What is the government's reaction to that kind of cross-border shopping?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member makes an interesting point. As I have told him before in the House, Petro-Canada markets in the marketplace as a company. I do not answer for it on every point. In fact even as a privatized company it has a board of directors that now makes that decision.

I say to the hon. member that I am sure he would not mind that gas coming across the border so he could use it in his car, which I understand was not made in this country either.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

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DENISON MINES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Tomorrow Denison Mines in Elliot Lake is shutting

down its uranium mining operation there, which will result in the lay-off of almost 1,000 workers.

What new provisions is the minister prepared to make to provide employment for these workers? The budget seemed to provide very little in this regard. I want to know what he is prepared to do to provide jobs for this community that has lost almost 85 per cent of its mining jobs.

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am ready to work with the community in question and make available to it all the benefits of the different programs that exist under Employment and Immigration.

I know this is a serious blow to that community. I am ready to work with the hon. member and officials of my department are ready to sit down with those people to see how we can help them adjust to the situation in question.

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ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. A week ago the Atomic Energy Control Board announced that it would be shutting down its office in Elliot Lake, Ontario.

I want to ask the minister how this can be justified. We have an operating uranium mine. We have a uranium refinery. We have three mines which are to be safely decommissioned. How can the minister justify having the control board pull its office and its monitoring facilities out of that community at a time when they are desperately needed? How can he justify that? How can he justify having this control board, the regulatory agency, act so irresponsibly at this time?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's concern for his community and for Elliot Lake and the changes that have taken place there. He and I have discussed many times the downturn in the uranium industry in Elliot Lake and the Ontario Hydro purchases that were based on long-term contracts.

In respect to the AECB moving out, there were four people at the AECB office in Elliot Lake. The major work is in Saskatchewan and that is where I believe three of the four people will now be placed.