

I repeat, Mr. Speaker: He left of his own accord. It seems that Mr. Mohammad, for reasons known to him and his representatives, is on his way back to Canada. Again, Mr. Speaker, that being the case, the Hon. Member should know that if a person has landed immigrant status, he has every right to return to Canada.

[English]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MAKE STATEMENT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question also concerns Mr. Mohammad. In light of press reports this morning and this afternoon that he was on his way to Algeria via London and is now on the way back, would the Minister agree to make a full statement to the House today on this situation? Can he tell us the full extent of the involvement of the Government of Canada? For example, was the RCMP, CSIS or any other agency of the Government involved, outside of the one to which he made reference?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I believe I have already explained the case. I repeat that the Government's purpose is to ensure that Mr. Mohammad leaves the country. We have initiated deportation proceedings. Mr. Mohammad expressed the wish to leave of his own accord. We facilitated his departure, always in accordance with the regulations, and if Mr. Mohammad returns to Canada, we shall proceed accordingly. Hearings on deportation proceedings were being held, and we will simply continue these hearings.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I indicated to the Hon. Member for Halifax West that I would recognize him. Unfortunately, Question Period has gone on too long. I will certainly recognize him tomorrow. That is the end of Question Period.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government; and the amendment of Mr. Garneau (p. 12860).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. The Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan) has seven minutes left for debate plus 10 minutes of questions and comments. Before he commences, may I say that I hope Hon. Members will continue their conversations behind the curtain.

The Budget—Mr. MacLellan

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, before I was interrupted for Question Period I was discussing the inadequacies of the Budget brought down by the Government, particularly with respect to the areas of this country which are undergoing economic difficulty, to those who are without jobs, and to a lot of those who are employed but who are not getting support from the Government in obtaining the type of job security they should have. I am pleased that the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. de Cotret) is here because a lot of this relates to his Department and the difficulty people have had in trying to follow through on what the Government has said it is going to do.

To give an example, we have the recent closure of the coke ovens at the Sydney Steel Corporation. This closure was of course directly related to the strike because they were not due to close until June. There are now another 125 men out of work in an area where the unemployment rate is 21.1 per cent, according to Statistics Canada, but where the actual rate is considerably higher.

Ten years ago those men said they wanted some kind of pension security because the coke ovens, then owned by the Cape Breton Development Corporation, were sold to the Sydney Steel Corporation. They went from a federal Crown corporation to a provincial Crown corporation. When these men, who had been at DEVCO for about 20 years, went with Sysco, they expected their pension benefits would go with them. Yet they now find that that is not the case. Men who worked for DEVCO for 35 or 40 years now have about 15 years seniority so far as pension benefits are concerned, mainly because the federal Government failed to honour its commitment to those men. This is treachery of the highest order. It is not against the law but it certainly goes against the grain and the stomachs of the Canadian public. It cannot be allowed to continue.

Of course, the country will rectify this in the next federal election but until then, the Government, particularly the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, should look into it once again. The steel workers have written to him about it and have not received an answer. I think the Minister should at least give them an answer on this very important question. These men remained in the same jobs, it was simply that the ownership of the ovens changed hands. Yet now they do not have seniority or their pension benefits. All they have is perhaps vacation rights.

Tom Kent, when he was President of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, promised those workers they would have their pension benefits and seniority, but that promise has not been kept. Therefore, I ask the Minister if he would be so kind as to look into this matter. As he can appreciate, it is a major concern in a very difficult time at the Sydney Steel Corporation. I hope also that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) would look into the promises and statements he has made with respect to the commitment to cleaning the tar ponds and Muggah Creek in Sydney. The commitments