

*Oral Questions***MIL DAVIE SHIPYARD**

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that existing facilities at Kingston cannot absorb an increase in the number of cadets from 600 to 1,200, which will be the case as a result of closing the colleges at Saint-Jean and Victoria.

Why does he fail to see there is much to be said for agreeing to the moratorium proposed by the mayor of Saint-Jean?

Hon. Marcel Massé (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Public Service Renewal, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, according to the plans that have already been made to accommodate 300 additional students in Kingston, we can use the barracks at CFB Kingston that are now vacant, so that the cost is minimal, and three years from now, we will be back to 900 students.

Consequently, in the circumstances it makes sense to concentrate students in Kingston. Since the army has been downsized, we no longer need three colleges, and we should now use all the resources available at the college in Kingston, which is the only one we need.

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I think there is a clear pattern in the federal government's concept of the kind of educational institution that should be made available to francophones in Kingston. It means barracks for the francophone cadets who will leave Saint-Jean and barracks and washrooms across the street for students at the Marie-Rivier school. It is a pattern we certainly do not appreciate.

Before we reach the point of no return, I want to ask the minister whether he agrees he should show some flexibility and take this opportunity to declare a moratorium of at least one year. Does he realize that many people in Quebec and Canada expect him to accept the truce proposed by the Official Opposition today and take the time to start a constructive dialogue with the parties concerned?

Hon. Marcel Massé (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Public Service Renewal, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is right to say it is time for a truce, for common sense and compromise. Well, we already have a compromise. We reached a compromise with the Government of Quebec. We have an agreement that provides for some military presence on the campus of Saint-Jean and for the continuation of the Collège de Saint-Jean.

• (1420)

Here is the agreement. It was signed by Daniel Johnson, the Premier of Quebec at the time. We have an agreement, and I suggest the opposition let us implement that agreement.

Mr. Michel Guimond (Beauport—Montmorency—Orléans, BQ): Mr. Speaker, while the government is still in the process of making up its mind in the matter of the construction of the Magdalen Islands ferry, it was announced that 300 MIL Davie workers will be laid off on Friday. These 300 workers will join the ranks of the 200 who were recently laid off. It should be pointed out that, in 1992, the shipyard employed over 3,700 workers; by Christmas, only 400 will be left.

Does the Minister of Transport recognize that with the lay-off of an additional 300 workers, it becomes urgent for the government to make up its mind if the last major shipyard in Quebec is to survive?

[English]

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member again today tries to imply that there is only one aspect to the problems facing the MIL Davie shipyard, that being whether or not it can acquire a contract to construct a ferry.

If the member would do his homework he would realize that contingent upon approval of a business plan by the shareholder of MIL Davie and contingent upon the co-operation of the labour unions at MIL Davie possibly some transition contracts might be helpful but not necessarily so.

To try to focus the future of MIL Davie on one contract demonstrates a very weak understanding of the complexity of the problems facing that shipyard.

[Translation]

Mr. Michel Guimond (Beauport—Montmorency—Orléans, BQ): Mr. Speaker, how can the Minister of Industry hide behind the MIL Davie business plan to justify his lack of action when the Quebec government is asking him, in writing, to become financially involved in the construction of the Magdalen Islands ferry?

[English]

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I fail to understand the rationale for a member, an elected representative of the House of Commons and thereby shared trustee of the public's moneys, saying that we are hiding behind the requirement of a business plan before investing public money in a private enterprise which is owned by a shareholder, that is the Government of Quebec.

Let us get realistic about where the solutions lie for this company and other companies that face the problems of adjusting to the changes occurring in the world. That company like others will survive because it becomes competitive and because