

Oral Questions

carry on serious negotiations and keep the promise which the Prime Minister made to the Japanese Canadian community and to the Canadian people?

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is aware that I speak for the Government in all of these matters and, as always, the Prime Minister has been supportive.

* * *

EMPLOYMENT

JOB CREATION IN TORONTO AREA

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In a recent, well publicized statement, the Hon. Member for Oshawa, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, stated that over the last two and one-half years over 95 per cent of all of the jobs created in Canada were created within a radius of 160 kilometres of Metropolitan Toronto. My constituents find that a little difficult to comprehend. Will the Minister advise the House and my constituents whether that is correct?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to correct the so-called NDP statistics that were used. In the last year, 21.5 per cent of the jobs created in this country were in the Toronto area.

My hon. friend from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East also said that 95 per cent of jobs were created in Ontario. That is absolutely false. The fact is that 35 per cent of jobs were created in Ontario and Ontario represents 38 per cent of the labour force in this country. It is not a shame to create jobs in Ontario.

* * *

INDUSTRY

HAWKER SIDDELEY CAR WORKS IN TRENTON, N.S.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. The workers and their families at the Hawker Siddeley Car Works in Trenton, Nova Scotia, are frustrated and disappointed at the Government's inability to provide meaningful leadership to assist the workers and to provide stability to that community.

Will the Minister indicate to the House, to the workers, and to the municipal representatives of Trenton, Nova Scotia, what concrete action his Government has taken with regard to providing employment opportunities in that region of Nova Scotia?

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I think everybody in the region knows that the Canadian Government has made a commitment to ensure that the Trenton plant will be sold as an operation and a going concern. Mr. Speaker, we obviously have to look at several alternatives. There have been discussions with various business people and companies that might be interested in acquiring the plant. Since these talks are confidential, Mr. Speaker, you will understand that I cannot really elaborate.

[English]

GOVERNMENT DECISION—TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I say to the Minister with great sincerity that discussions, meetings and consultations are no substitute for concrete specific action by the Government of Canada. I ask the Minister, on behalf of those workers and their families, when will he put a positive proposal on the table so that workers and the people of Trenton, Nova Scotia, will understand something about their future? In all decency, I ask the Minister to give us a date as to when he will make a decision on their future.

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we are doing our utmost to provide a future for the workers of these regions, as we have done for all workers in the eastern provinces. That is why we have created so many jobs since 1984, and the hon. gentleman knows it.

Mr. Speaker: I want to advise Hon. Members that our routine is a little out of order. I will recognize the Hon. Member for York South—Weston, then return to the New Democratic Party.

* * *

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CORONER'S INQUEST INTO MURDER OF CELIA RUYGROK

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It concerns the coroner's inquest into the murder of Celia Ruygrok. During the course of the inquest the federal Government was accused of "buck passing, using a big stick, and intimidation". Will the Solicitor General explain to the people of Canada why the federal Government refused to co-operate fully at the coroner's inquest? What was it hiding, and why has the federal Government not assumed full responsibility for this tragedy?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Hon. Member that I have been following the inquest very closely and have taken everything that has been said very seriously. Having said that, I want to