

*Oral Questions*

In terms of the MD-12 assembly, we are prepared to stand by McDonnell Douglas and help in any way we can for it to obtain that contract.

\* \* \*

**THE ECONOMY**

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, the minister and this government suggest that these bankruptcy figures today are disturbing. In fact they are at record levels. They have never been higher in this country. The minister suggests that in fact there has not been much increase with respect to business bankruptcies. They are up 22 per cent.

If this minister is concerned to see credit get to people across this country being hit by bankruptcy, will he listen to the pleas of his Superintendent of Financial Institutions who today came out and said that the banks in this country were not lending money when they should be? Will he in fact stand up and say there has to be action on the part of the banks and the government to get this economy going again?

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I do not agree at all with the numbers just given by the hon. member. Of course the situation is disturbing and that is why we must act to correct it by creating the proper conditions.

Let me give him the number, for example, of business establishments we have had this year. It is close to 2 million businesses as compared to less than 1 million in 1982 with a rate of bankruptcy of 1.28, and the present rate of bankruptcy is of 0.78. This of course is not a satisfactory situation, but one must not dramatize.

We are going through a transition period. The government must do everything it can to create the conditions for the recovery. It is not by borrowing money that we do not have, causing the capital to flow to government coffers and not to the business community which needs it badly. That will solve the problem.

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** But the point, Mr. Speaker, is that the government's own Superintendent of Financial Institutions is saying that the banking system in this country is not delivering that money to the businesses that need it. Despite lower interest rates the government's policy is not working.

I want to ask the minister about a confidential memo from the International Monetary Fund which indicates

that it is the IMF that has urged governments to take this policy.

I want to ask the minister if he will admit that the reason that he has not helped people here in Canada suffering from recession is because he has instead listened to the IMF in Washington.

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to give the assurance to the member that this is not the case. Had we followed the Liberal policy for the 15 years preceding ours, our deficit would be at \$100 billion and then we would be taking instruction from the IMF.

But we are not. We made these decisions before. What the IMF says is that some of the measures we have taken it would recommend because they are good, valid measures.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. On June 5, I asked the minister when he would produce environmental studies of government policies. He answered that they did not yet have the methods to do so. Yesterday in the House, I asked the same question and unfortunately, I had the same reply. No progress in six months. However, in a study that I have here and which the minister knows well, a very reputable institute, Resources Future International, long ago developed the methods that the minister is supposedly seeking.

Mr. Speaker, is the minister prepared to submit immediately to the Auditor General for approval the methods contained in this report in order to apply them in reviewing the next budget?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, let us be clear on the meaning of what we said yesterday. I told the hon. member for LaSalle—Émard that the government had to create the methodology to do the environmental assessment as policies move through the Cabinet system. That does not mean that there is no method at all, Mr. Speaker; on the contrary, it means that every case is unique. When an issue is presented, the government must adjust accordingly and put in place the processes, mechanisms and evaluations that will enable us to produce an environmental assessment. That is what I meant in my answer and that is what we will continue to do in the years to come.