

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: We must move on.

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EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. It is a question I had hoped never to have to put in this House. The Prime Minister will be aware that in the last few days another 800 men and women have been laid off from General Motors in St. Catharines and the area. This is a total of over 5,000 people who have been laid off.

I was wondering what specific action his government is prepared to take to alleviate the circumstances for our men and women who, after all, live in the heartland of industrial Canada.

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member indeed points to a situation that is tough for the people in that community. That is why under the current programming of employment and immigration, officials of the department have been in touch with the company in question, the union and the workers in order to put in place the adjustment measures that are contained in the programming of the Canadian Jobs Strategy.

Every effort will be devoted by the department to work in co-operation with the owner, the union and the workers in order to try to have in place these adjustment measures in order to help those people.

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold): Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for the information.

A statement was made by the premier of Ontario that he will do everything that he can. I was wondering if the minister would give his undertaking today that his officials will be working with the provincial officials as well as the union members in order to try to rectify the situation as soon as we possibly can.

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation what-

soever in extending the full co-operation of my department to the ministry of labour of Ontario.

It is important indeed that all stakeholders work together in trying to address the problem caused by that decision. Again I can assure the hon. member of our co-operation in that regard.

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NEW BRUNSWICK YOUTH STRATEGY

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Youth.

There has been a very successful program called the New Brunswick Youth Strategy in place for five years now on an experimental basis. That program has had a federal-provincial contribution of \$120 million.

I would like to ask the minister if a comprehensive and definitive report has yet been prepared on the results of that pilot program and whether or not the program will be continued in New Brunswick in the coming year and extended to other provinces.

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the hon. member, as he probably already knows, that a definite report has not been submitted yet. There is an interim report that is being looked at right now. Decisions will be made accordingly in the near future.

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PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works.

In view of the controversy and dubious value of the P.E.I. fixed link and the Lester Pearson International Airport upgrade, both announced yesterday, will the minister advise the House if these projects are merely political pump-priming or if they fulfil a national need.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, obviously they fulfil a national need.