

Oral Questions

best health of all those on the Island of Montreal, Mr. Speaker.

In view of all this, Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce knows very well that since the present Government of Canada, the Government of Quebec and the City of Montreal have implemented a package of measures, we are keeping the promises and commitments we had to the city of Montreal and the region in general.

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, this is not my analysis, but an analysis made by the Montreal Centraide campaign and *The Gazette* of Montreal. The plan that he put into operation last week was only for southwest Montreal.

In addition to the Lacoste report to which I referred, a recent survey by the Montreal Board of Trade found that Montreal companies are increasingly pessimistic about business conditions in that city.

Another report indicates that construction starts are down 31 per cent.

The *regroupement des depts. de santé communautaire* stated that one in four Montrealers are living in a state of poverty.

The Montreal Island School Commission said that poverty in Montreal is tied to illiteracy and to immigration conditions.

These are not our assessments—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will put his question.

Mr. Allmand: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I want to know when the government is going to take these reports seriously—these reports, not our analysis—and do something about it?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the member will not be surprised if I do not always agree with *The Gazette*.

I believe that we have done for Montreal what we said we would do, and we continue to do it.

The member does not seem to be impressed. He should go and see what we did in southwest Montreal and find out from the community groups what they think about what we did.

The hon. member should speak to the city of Montreal and to many other organizations in Montreal which recognize that with the way the Liberals left Montreal in 1984, we had a lot of work to do. But it is what we do, and we will carry on. We will give Montreal the pride to be a great city of Canada.

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ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy who is responsible for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. It has to do with reports today that the government might be considering throwing good money after bad in helping to complete the Candu reactor project in Romania.

Knowing what he does about the shoddy work record on that site and the contentions about the diversion of nuclear materials, heavy water, et cetera, could the minister tell the House whether the government is prepared to make the decision that this project is beyond redemption and not continue with that work in Romania?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have just a couple of points in answer to the hon. member.

First, with respect to the matter of the publicity relating to the diversion of heavy water, I point out to the hon. member that Canada was not involved. That should be kept in mind with respect to the publicity surrounding the diversion of heavy water from another country.

The second point that should be kept in mind is that all the moneys that Romania obligated itself to pay to date on the Cernovoda project have been paid up to the fourth quarter of 1989. There are no arrears.

In response to his question, the Government of Canada was approached after the fall of the Ceausescu regime by the present government for consideration of an extension of EDC credits on repayment terms and obligations such as Romania had met earlier. We have not made a decision on that issue yet.