

Oral Questions

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the new jobs that have been created, and the Prime Minister knows this, do not directly affect the people who are laid off at Gillette, Catelli, Pittsburgh Paint or any other industry that is making decisions in the context of free trade. That is the reality and the Prime Minister knows it.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is very direct. The Government has expressed its intention to adjourn the House till the spring, but the workers who have lost their jobs have lost them recently. Why does the Conservative Government give priority to giving time off to its members rather than dealing with the layoffs? Is that Tory justice?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, major programs have been established throughout the country to assist workers laid off because of technological changes. It is a fact of life in industrialized societies and that situation is not about to change, unfortunately. A responsible government must therefore provide the affected workers with the most generous programs possible. That is what we have done and will continue to do.

My hon. friend brings up some problems with the Gillette company, which is a real problem. But he does not mention the \$500 million investment in the Trois-Rivières region in the aluminum sector, which is going to create hundreds of jobs. He does not mention the hundreds of jobs created at National Sea Products in Lunenburg and at Hearn Harbour Terminals in Windsor.

[English]

Du Pont Canada plans to double its capital spending for 1989 to \$156 million. There will be 480 new jobs at a new Cargill Limited slaughter house in High River, Alberta. There are 90 new jobs at Quaker Oats, Campbell Soup, et cetera.

[Translation]

Of course, jobs are lost regularly as a result of technological change. Many more new jobs are created because of the new climate of cooperation with the provinces fostered by this Government.

[English]

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA DEVELOPMENT FUND

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and concerns the Report of the Auditor General. The Auditor General has chronicled case after case of questionable projects approved under the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore Development Fund. Of the \$130 million approved to date, the Auditor General concludes that fully \$75 million worth of projects is questionable as to their eligibility under the fund.

Will the Prime Minister now give this House and the people of Nova Scotia his assurance that a full investigation will be undertaken and, where evidence of misappropriation is found, that the Government of Canada will replenish the fund for the amounts spent which did not meet program criteria?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, for four years, this Government has operated on the basic premise that the provinces are partners with the Canadian Government in developing policies within their jurisdiction, and it intends to maintain this attitude in the present mandate.

In this spirit, an accord was signed between the Governments of Canada and of Nova Scotia to give this province the means to develop its infrastructure when offshore development occurs. The Government of Nova Scotia did what it was entitled to do, namely present us with its priorities for developing its own territory, and this Government recognizes its responsibility and treats Nova Scotia as a full partner, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

DARTMOUTH SEWAGE SYSTEM PROJECT

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister because that answer is simply unacceptable.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth): The federal Minister has the responsibility to sign off on each and every one of those projects. My supplementary question deals with a specific project. I wish to know under what specific program criteria did the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources approve \$2.3 million for the