

his question as representation with a view to checking to ensure that there is no serious threat of them losing their present positions.

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● (1450)

[Translation]

FINANCE

INQUIRY WHY MINISTER DID NOT MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF QUEBEC FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Today he admitted that he agreed to have a meeting with the "big bosses" of the financial world, as had been reported by the *Globe and Mail*.

Could the Minister of Finance inform the House why he agreed to meet with the big bosses of the financial world, when yesterday he refused to attend a meeting with representatives of Quebec family agencies, representing 100,000 people, who wanted to meet with the Minister to discuss the needs of the real people of this country? What were his reasons? Is this the old double standard? He has time for the crème de la crème but no time at all for the people.

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have a list of the various organizations that I have met over the course of the last six months. I could read the list to the Hon. Member if he wishes. It would only take me about ten minutes. They include the Consumers' Association of Canada, the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and the Canadian Federation of Municipalities.

I have met with a wide range of people and not just the "Pooh-Bahs", to use his words from the translation. The group that I met a week and a half ago was part of the same series of consultations.

I do not understand, for the life of me, why the Liberal Party is against consultation. Surely it is important for the Minister of Finance to have access to the ideas and views of a wide range of Canadians. That is the process we have gone through over the last six months, and that is the process that will continue flowing in this place.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS TOMORROW

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Oral Questions

First of all, I am glad the Minister asked me why we were opposed to consultation. In connection with Bill C-26, all groups were asking to have the spouse's allowance expanded and the Minister is refusing to do so. His consultations are a lot of bullshit!

Could the Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the Hon. Member wants to withdraw that word.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the word, but the smell lingers.

Could the Minister of Finance inform the House whether he would be willing to meet tomorrow with these family agencies so they can explain their position on policies affecting the family?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, again the Hon. Member demonstrated a total lack of respect for the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Comments like that do not reflect on me; they reflect on this whole House. If the Hon. Member had any respect, he would take back that comment in a far more complimentary way than he has just done.

I have met with a number of groups that represent social organizations. I can tell the Hon. Member right now that any meeting right now would not be timely in terms of this Budget, but I would be very happy to meet with the organization to which he refers, but not under his auspices, because I do not think that would do any credit to the organization involved.

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SHIPBUILDING

LAYOFFS AT DAVIE SHIPYARD

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

[Translation]

Last week, the Davie shipyards at Lauzon, near Quebec City, sent layoff notices to 880 employees. The remaining 770 will be laid off this fall, and the company will have no new contracts until the fall of 1986, when it will start on the Federal project for refitting four Canadian Navy destroyers. My question is as follows, Mr. Speaker: Is the Federal Government going to accept the union's request to award the company a contract for the construction of another ferry for CN Marine, so that union members will have work until the fall of 1986?