

If you spend the same amount of money on things like education or housing and health, you can create three or four times the number of jobs than with the money spent on defence.

The second point in the conversion which I think is important, and again I do not have the accurate figures with me, is that the defence industry takes a horrendous number of our intellectual resources, our scientists.

I remember once on a delegation in Washington listening to one of the vice-presidents of Hughes Aircraft saying that what is used in the defence industry is generally 10 years ahead of what is used in the domestic industry.

There are many scientific discoveries that need to be innovated and brought into daily use, opening up tremendous new possibilities in terms of manufacturing, which now are just captured by the defence industry. We have spent so much of our intellectual resources in the defence industry that if you turned them loose in the domestic industry, many of our problems such as pollution, energy, biomedical problems and so forth would be solved. Using the scientific knowledge that the defence industry has for domestic purposes could also create many more jobs.

The government can work with industry and should be working with industry in terms of converting.

[Translation]

**Mr. André Plourde (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I have a comment I would like to make in response to the remarks about food banks and soup kitchens made by the NDP members who spoke earlier.

I can inform the hon. member that recently, Diemaco bid on a contract to supply the Netherlands Ministry of Defence with a series of small arms, a contract worth over \$120 million that might be followed by another contract worth \$100 million, to supply spare parts and other maintenance items.

If the company gets the contract, this will represent 7,680 person-years of employment in Canada, a figure that might almost double for the duration of the contract. It seems this would also mean that it would be possible to continue designing new weapons systems for the Canadian Armed Forces until the year 2000.

### *Government Orders*

There is also the General Motors Diesel Division, also located in Ontario. It seems Saudi Arabia has decided to purchase a number of light armoured vehicles, a purchase that may be followed by other orders which might create between 1,500 and 2,000 new jobs in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, according to my NDP colleague's logic, if we want to avoid soup kitchens, we have to create jobs. In the same vein, if these plants in Ontario cannot survive, they will have to close, and the United States will get those jobs, and what is now being done in Canada will be done in the United States.

My point is, there is not the slightest hint of realism in the hon. member's speech and in all the NDP speeches I have heard today. In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would be interested to know the position of Bob White, who represents the United Auto Workers in Canada, and I would also like to know the position of union workers at General Motors and Diemaco, who support this bill, Mr. Speaker.

• (1640)

[English]

**Mr. de Jong:** Mr. Speaker, I understand the need for jobs and I understand the desperation of people, especially given the recession that has been made by this government, that to them there is an immediate job of \$25 an hour as opposed to something that might happen somewhere later down the road in terms of conversion.

Their immediate needs and concerns are going to be with that job, but that is the creation and the situation you have created and that is the choice that you are giving to people. I say that is a bogus choice.

Why not use that logic and take it one step further? Why do you not legalize the growing of marijuana and the processing of heroine? You would create many jobs right across this country. Where do you stop? Where do you draw the line?

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pronovost):** Order please.

It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Stormont—Dundas—Canada Post; the hon. member for Labrador—National Defence; the hon. member for Papineau—Saint-Michel—Employment; the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands—Cross-border shop-