

strenuously to give him answers which will satisfy him more fully in the future. However, I have not been contacted on the matter he brings to my attention.

In relation to the question of the organization of the banks, the hon. member will be aware of the fact that the Canada Labour Relations Board made a ruling which was very helpful to organization and which allowed each individual branch to be organized rather than having the necessity to organize the entire system. In that regard, extensive efforts toward organization have been undertaken. Some of them have been successful. In some instances there have been difficulties in achieving first agreements.

The hon. member will be aware that the question of six branches of the Royal Bank in the Saguenay area is at the present time before the Canada Labour Relations Board. There is an inquiry into the dispute under the legislation passed by the former progressive Liberal government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Regan: That board has the power, if advisable, to settle the terms and conditions of first collective agreements. In that instance, the question is under consideration at the present time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

PARKS CANADA

COST OF RETAINING REGIONAL OFFICE IN CORNWALL

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is to the President of the Treasury Board. Just a moment ago the minister said the reason he had gone along with retaining Parks Canada in Cornwall was that it would cost less. I am sure the minister would not want to mislead this House intentionally.

Is that the information he received from the Department of the Environment, and Parks Canada itself? If it is, there was a sudden change in the information available to ministers between the time I made the decision last summer to move on economic grounds and the decision the President of the Treasury Board made the other day.

An hon. Member: Get your act together.

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, my act is very much together. I am relying on the information which I had developed for me by my officials with respect to the cost of cancelling the lease, relocating the employees back in Cornwall and ensuring that they will be well taken care of, as indicated by the Minister of the Environment in his press release of, I believe, two weeks ago.

Oral Questions

● (1450)

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

CHRYSLER CANADA—USE OF FUNDS GUARANTEED BY GOVERNMENT

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Having followed with great interest the negotiations of the minister with Chrysler Canada, and being personally pleased with the decision he has taken to provide federal aid equivalent to an investment of \$1 billion till 1985, is the minister in a position to tell the House or to make public the proposal or recommendations made by his Quebec counterparts about the purposes for which part of that \$1 billion would be used before 1985?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, I do appreciate that the hon. member for Joliette acknowledges the fact that we have concluded a satisfactory arrangement with Chrysler Corporation. Perhaps he knows quite well that the arrangement will enable them to maintain at least 6,000 jobs in Quebec. According to our information, the Quebec government wrote to former industry minister de Cotret stating that in its opinion it would be a good idea to have guaranteed loans and to restore jobs in circumstances such as those related to Chrysler Corporation in Canada.

Mr. La Salle: Madam Speaker, I was well aware that the decision of the minister could save a number of jobs in Quebec as well as elsewhere in Canada. Now, with regard to that \$1 billion investment I wanted to know whether the minister can tell the House if it will create a surplus number of jobs. In light of the answer of the minister, I understand that his cabinet or caucus colleagues did not make any recommendations; therefore, as a member from Quebec, and on behalf of all my hon. colleagues, may I be allowed to ask the minister to look seriously into the possibility of using part of that \$1 billion in the province of Quebec, where it would be highly appreciated at this point in time?

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, that \$1 billion will be spent on new equipment for the Chrysler plants in Canada. That is exactly what the Quebec government suggested, that if the federal government gave any assistance to Chrysler it should be to renew its plant equipment. That is exactly what the agreement which we signed with Chrysler stipulates. Through that agreement, I want to repeat, we have saved at least 6,000 jobs in the province of Quebec.