

closed as long as he was Minister. Will the Minister tender his resignation since CN is abandoning its shops in Moncton?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, contrary to the Hon. Member's suggestion that the shops will be closed, the shops will remain open.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: Contrary to what the Hon. Member alleges, the President of CN has indicated that when agreement is reached between CN and Canadian General Electric all 1,022 shop employees should either retain jobs or be accommodated through existing benefit plans. I think that is a pretty good deal.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SITUATION OF WORKERS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, the shops will be just as empty as the promises the Minister made last summer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Robichaud: What is the Minister prepared to do for the workers who will lose their jobs? Is he prepared to do something right now for those whose jobs will be lost?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is attempting to argue that black is white. CN will enter negotiations with Canadian General Electric on the basis of the retention of the 1,022 jobs, or existing benefits will be transferred for earlier retirement or retraining. All of those things will be looked after.

It is important for the Hon. Member to get on the bandwagon in support and urge his union friends to support this process because it will provide a strong, stable, and secure future for the people of Moncton.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

TRADE

FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES—ALLEGED QUEBEC REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Prime Minister concerns the free trade negotiations.

Oral Questions

The Quebec Minister of Communications has asked that communications be part of the free trade negotiations. Is the Government going to say no to Quebec, even though the provincial Government asks for the inclusion of communications and culture?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, we have received no formal request from the Quebec Government in this area. But I mentioned last night in my speech that our unique cultural identity and special linguistic character are elements of the very essence of Canada. They are not the issue in these negotiations. Such is the position of the Federal Government.

[English]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, it appears that the Government may be receiving such a request. Will the Prime Minister tell us when the request comes, which request was mentioned in answer to a question yesterday in the Quebec House, will the answer continue to be no, culture will not be on the negotiating table even if there is a provincial request for it?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, we have not discussed this issue in any shape or form at any of the meetings I have had with Quebec Government representatives.

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[English]

ENERGY

PRICE PAID TO ALBERTA OIL PRODUCERS

Mr. Murray Dorin (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. She will be aware of many recent reports indicating that Alberta producers receive the lowest price in the world for their oil. In view of the fact that the oil industry in Alberta is already devastated, has the Minister examined this system to ensure that Canadian producers receive at least equal treatment with their foreign competitors?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the federal Government deregulated oil markets a year ago this month. We have completely removed ourselves from the market-place in this area. I would suggest that the only resolution to this issue has to come from discussions between the producers and the refiners.