

*Oral Questions*

The process for determining just cause is not touched at all. It will not change the situation from what it was before. The only difference is that employers and employees, hard working Canadians, will not subsidize paying benefits to a person who quits a job for no reason.

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, if the minister wants to talk about those who leave voluntarily as opposed to those who are fired—my question was about firing—I will talk about those who leave voluntarily.

At that same convention a woman delegate got to her feet and, fighting back tears, explained to the delegation that as a non-union worker, she left a non-union job because she had been sexually harassed. She told of how humiliated she was, how frightened of her employer she was and how emotionally she could not face taking him on. She also said that in her industry, if she had taken on her employer, she would never have worked again.

She quit and searched for another job, knowing she would have UI. What will this woman and hundreds of other women in Canada do if they will not be eligible for UI under this process? Will the minister, knowing that women cannot take on the system, rethink this wrong-headed policy?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know why the NDP keeps insisting that sexual harassment is not a just cause. I am telling them it is and they, as representatives of the people of this country, should stop arguing.

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**CYPRUS**

**Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs who is aware that during this coming week the government must decide whether or not it is going to renew our peacekeeping commitment in Cyprus. Although we have been in Cyprus now for some 28 years, and the government is being pressed to undertake new peacekeeping commitments elsewhere, surely the minister will agree that Canada should stay in Cyprus, finish the job and bring it to a successful conclusion before we leave Cyprus and risk another war. Or, is this decision to be

made solely on the basis of cost at the same time we are undertaking other commitments elsewhere in the world?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the decision will be made very shortly. I should say it will not be made solely on reasons of cost. In fact, in this case that is a relatively small matter compared with some of our other operations.

• (1450)

I should say that after 28 years, Canada feels that it has done an excellent job in the region. We are very disappointed that up until now, negotiations have not been successful. In fact, the negotiations that have been going on this year have gone on partly because Canada last January raised this with the Secretary General and indicated at that time that we would pull out if there is not progress.

I should say as well that whatever Canada's decision, it does not necessarily mean an end to peacekeeping in Cyprus. There are countries that can be called upon and it is the responsibility of the Secretary General, if he feels that peacekeeping should continue, as long as the Security Council continues to appropriate itself to him, to fill that role.

The House will know very shortly what our decision is.

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[Translation]

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. What are the latest developments in the GATT Uruguay round and what repercussions will they have on the Canadian agricultural industry?

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, the initial agreement reached recently by the Americans and the Europeans obviously brought the subject back on the table. As you know, the Europeans reacted in various ways. For us it was good news because as far as Canada's exports are concerned, it is important to stop these outrageous subsidies which have destroyed agriculture in many parts of the world as a result of the billions of dollars spent on subsidies.