

Last week Colgate Palmolive closed a plant in Toronto and moved some 250 jobs to the United States. The minister is aware of the fact that there is a growing concern in southern Ontario about the fear of permanently losing our manufacturing base.

We know that the minister has a strategy for competitiveness for the long term, but in the long term we are all going to be dead. What is the government going to do right now about this situation?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, what we are doing right now is getting interest rates down as much as we can. The Minister of Finance has commented on that on a number of occasions.

We have been promoting trade aggressively. I have been in five different countries in the last six months promoting international trade, promoting our exports, which will help our manufacturing community. In addition to that are some of the structural policies that my colleague, the Minister of Finance, has just talked about and the GST which is designed to help the competitive position of manufacturers. All of these combined are what we are doing now, but I should reinforce the point that my colleague has made that the medium and longer term policies are equally important.

• (1500)

That is the essence of the consultation that we will be announcing with Canadians in general to have a national action plan to deal with this problem.

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## JUSTICE

**Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

Many people in Saskatchewan were appalled when the Minister of Justice recently appointed Devine cabinet minister Gary Lane to a position on the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, a position that Lane himself created.

The Canadian Bar Association has called for a two-year cooling off period before politicians can go to the bench. Why has the minister allowed her political partisanship to infringe upon the credibility of Saskatchewan?

## *Business of the House*

**Mr. Speaker:** I am deeply concerned with the tone of the question. The minister may want to deal with it, but I am certainly not satisfied with that approach on the appointment of a judge.

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## TRANSPORTATION

**Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Transport.

This morning on Annapolis Valley radio, a source was quoted from Transport Canada as saying that the ferry service between Saint John, New Brunswick and Digby, Nova Scotia would be greatly reduced in that they would eliminate truck service as well as put it on a seasonal basis for car passengers. The source went on to say that it would not impact in the area.

Can the Prime Minister allow somebody from the department, a source, to talk about how this would impact on an area, whether it would impact or not, and will the Prime Minister tell this House that this is not a valid source and that this is not a policy of this government to cut off an area?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to take note of that question for my hon. friend and will try to get back to her as soon as possible.

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## PRESENCE IN GALLERY

**Mr. Speaker:** I draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of His Excellency Butrus Butrus Ghali, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Immigration Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

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## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put my regular question to