

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, I know what the the hon. member is trying to do with her question. She is trying to give an impression that nothing was done to accommodate any of the suggestions in the CANMET report.

What she fails to understand is that to even open a mine you must get a lease. In order to get a mining lease in the province of Nova Scotia, you must comply with all safety and other regulations of the province of Nova Scotia. This they worked hard at doing and this they did or they would not have been given the lease.

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary for the Prime Minister.

• (1430 )

What I am trying to get at, which the Minister Responsible for Small Business does not seem to understand, is why this project was hurried up. Why was there such a timetable? There was inadequate time given to deal with the serious concerns that were raised.

In fact, in April 1991 a Calgary engineering consultant who had worked on a number of mining projects was quoted as saying that this mine was one of the most rapid he has ever seen in terms of construction.

The question we are trying to get is simply: Why was it so rapid?

[*Translation*]

My question to the Prime Minister is as follows: Could he indicate to the House whether he has had discussions with federal or provincial politicians, either in writing or in person, about the time frame for this project?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, only a few days ago I referred in the House to conversations I had with the present premier of Nova Scotia and other provincial premiers on regional development projects in their respective provinces.

I talked to the premier of Yukon about a mining project involving the same company, in the hon. member's riding. In supporting federal involvement in the project in her riding, I applied the same objective criteria that were used to support the project in Nova Scotia.

[*English*]

**STEEL INDUSTRY**

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister.

Yesterday, we received a visit from the steel producers of Canada. They informed us that they face a very serious problem at this moment. Again, despite the free trade agreement, they are about to face some action in Washington. Already some clients are cancelling orders because they do not know if they can rely on Canadian producers.

Despite the free trade agreement, almost every month now we see a new problem developing in trade relations between Canada and the United States. It is always initiated in the United States. When will the Prime Minister do something about it? He was bragging in this House last week that he can talk to George any time. The time to call him is today.

**Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science):** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Official Opposition must know that this dispute is being brought by the American steel industry under American laws.

There has, as yet, been no definitive information as to whether Canada will be included in this dispute. It seems to me a little premature to be raising a flag of fear when we do not know the answer to that question.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I think Canadian steelworkers who saw their jobs disappear because of this government's failure to act will not look kindly on the fact that the Prime Minister does not bother to answer this kind of question.

At a time when Quebec has been hit by a very negative decision on magnesium and a 35 per cent surtax and today, Sidbec-Dosco will be faced with the same problem, will the Prime Minister, for once, start doing something about the problems of Quebec and Canadian workers?