

ic development of this region and the province of Quebec as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the Domtar issue has been raised many times in the House over the past two weeks, and I must tell the Parliamentary Secretary that the government's replies have been unsatisfactory, not only on March 4, but every single time we have heard about this matter.

On that date, I asked whether the government was looking into the possibility of becoming a shareholder in the Domtar Corporation, and whether this was one of the alternatives being considered. Moreover, I was seeking the assurance that it would not discriminate against that company on the ground that 45 p. 100 of the shares were held by agencies of the Quebec government. I never had any answer to the first question, and so far, the government has seemed unwilling to reply to this question: What options are being considered to salvage this important project which is necessary to the economic stability of the Eastern Townships?

Also, last Friday, the Prime Minister met with the Quebec premier. He had promised to discuss the Domtar project with Mr. Lévesque, but his pockets were empty, and he had nothing to offer. Mr. Lévesque has therefore had to admit that he has received nothing from the Federal Government for the Domtar project.

Indeed, we learned during the weekend that Domtar was now considering a major investment in Minnesota, which would mean a lot for the fine paper market in the United States and effectively prevent this project from going forward in the Eastern Townships, even though it would benefit the economy of Quebec and create jobs for Quebecers in that region.

However, what disturbs us is the contradiction between the official statements made by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

Last November 8, Mr. Speaker, the Department announced the changes to be made to the Industrial and Regional Development Program. Among the changes introduced last November 8, apparently as part of the new governmental policy, the Department stated that, in the future, Crown corporations would not be entitled to any subsidies. This policy was confirmed in the estimates of the Minister which were published only two weeks ago. This is indeed departmental policy and it is quite clear that departmental officials understand this to mean that Crown corporations and their subsidiaries, such as Domtar, will no longer be able to receive subsidies or financial assistance from the Government. However, when we asked the Prime Minister about it, he said: "No, that is not my policy." In fact, on March 1, he said that this was the interpretation of the departmental officials not his own nor that of his colleagues. These interpretations are completely contradictory, Mr. Speaker.

### *Adjournment Debate*

Even more recently, on March 11, the Minister finally came back to the House, and in reply to the questions addressed to him, he said that these two statements, namely that of the Prime Minister to the effect that Domtar could receive subsidies, and the statement of his department that a company such as Domtar would not be eligible or entitled to subsidies, were quite consistent with each other, in spite of the obvious contradiction.

Second, Mr. Speaker, what disturbs me as the spokesman for my Party, is not simply the discrimination directed against a Crown corporation or its subsidiary, but also the discrimination against poor provinces and especially the Province of Quebec.

In Quebec, the industrial structure is quite different from the one in Ontario, for instance, because of the Caisse de dépôt et de placement du Québec, because of the intervention of the Société générale de financement, and because the public sector is involved in provincial industries in a way unparalleled in other provinces. This fact was ignored in the policy announced by the Minister on November 8.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we are not satisfied with the replies of the Government.

**Mrs. Monique B. Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the question put this evening by the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) is, I think, related to a question that has already been answered by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret). The Hon. Member also mentions questions that were not answered by the Minister or the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). In each case, considering the information available and the questions that have been put in the House, I would advise my hon. friend to review his notes, and I would also like to point out that during the adjournment debate on Tuesday evening, I answered a question put by the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre).

In my answer I mentioned the situation at Domtar and the reasons behind the Government's decision. I would urge my hon. friend to look up all the answers that have been given on the subject and to refer to *Hansard* of March 12, 1985, where I answered a question of our Hon. Member for Shefford about Domtar.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It is appropriate, since the House will not be sitting on that day, to indicate that St. Patrick's Day falls on Sunday. This day is very dear to everyone who is Irish or wishes they were on that day. St. Casimir's Day was of course on March 4 and I celebrated that quietly. I am getting ready for the days of St. Vladimir of Kiev and St. Stanislaw of Cracow, patron saint of Poland. St. Stanislaw has come up strong on the calendar of Saints under the present Pope, but I can assure you that St. Patrick will continue to be revered wherever there is a touch of the green or a bit of the blarney.