

*Oral Questions*

Government in Ottawa was no for 20 years. Thanks to the intervention of the Hon. Member for Matane and other Members of the region and thanks to the co-operation of the Provincial Government, we can hope that something will finally happen for the first time in 20 years.

## REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary.

The first reply that those involved received from this Government was a no in the case of the advance ruling, and the Prime Minister knows it. This is the answer that he gave them.

The people want to know whether the Prime Minister can rise today and honestly say: Yes, this will go forward! It is not a case of shilly-shallying and of saying "maybe". This is what you have been saying for months. Yes or no, will you be going forward with the Matane papermill? The people are fed up and want some answers.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, progress will be made in the Lower St. Lawrence region like elsewhere in Quebec. I can tell you this: With a Conservative Government, Quebecers will not have to wait for 20 years before benefiting from a new prosperity in Canada.

## FUTURE OF G.M. PLANT AT SAINTE-THÉRÈSE, P.Q.

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

Yesterday, at the opening of the *Salon de l'automobile* in Montreal, Mr. Gary Henson, manager of the General Motors plant in Sainte-Thérèse, declared at a press conference that GM had no plans for its Sainte-Thérèse plant beyond 1987.

Could the Prime Minister promise the House today to meet with Mr. Henson as soon as possible to discuss this question and provide some reassurance for the workers at the Sainte-Thérèse plant?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my hon. friend for his excellent question which concerns a matter that is very important for Quebec.

We are of course working with this industry that is so vital to the well-being of Quebec and Ontario. In fact, Southwestern Ontario plays a very important role in the economic life of this province.

For us in Quebec, the Sainte-Thérèse plant was the only one we could count on. And until quite recently... in fact the Conservative Government was the first government in twenty-five years to do something about getting automobile manufacturers to build new plants in Quebec. But that is a new development.

I think that answers the concerns of my hon. friend, and I can assure him we intend to co-operate very closely with management at GM and other companies to ensure this sector will not only be present but flourishing within Quebec's economy.

[English]

## REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MEET MANUFACTURERS

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question may I ask the Prime Minister whether he will engage immediately in meetings with those who represent all of the automobile manufacturers in Canada, including the more recent import manufacturers, to set up a plan that puts all automobile manufacturers on the same basis, so that suppliers of traditional plants will be protected, while at the same time the new plants will be operating on the same fundamental basis as those against whom they are competing?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** The Hon. Member should have stayed with French. He was doing well, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mulroney:** I met with all of the automobile manufacturers in Canada four weeks ago, and I dealt precisely with those problems.

**Mr. Deans:** What happened? What did they say?

[Translation]

G.M. PLANT AT SAINTE-THÉRÈSE—INVESTMENT PROJECT—  
REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On November 7, 1984, that is more than a year ago, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition asked the Prime Minister—

**Mr. Masse:** Which one?

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** —to meet with General Motors which had just announced it was going to cancel its plan to invest \$700 million in the Sainte-Thérèse plant.

The Prime Minister answered, and I quote:

The Leader of the Opposition has every reason to be concerned over that question, and the Minister and I will take this up with the management of that corporation—

I want to ask the Prime Minister what kind of discussions he has had with General Motors and why that corporation is now talking about closing its plant instead of investing \$700 million?

[English]

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, if I may answer the Hon. Member's question, I have not only had one but several meetings with