

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether that question needs to be dignified with an answer. I replied to the Hon. Member's first question by indicating that officials of my Department are working with officials of the Government of the Province of Quebec, as well as local municipal officials, to try to work out an amiable solution. I assume the Hon. Member would agree that that is the right way to proceed.

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[Translation]

**CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**PROMOTION OF FRENCH SONGS—EXPANSION OF RECORD
INDUSTRY—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. He is probably aware that lowering the quota for songs in French has raised a wave of protest in Quebec.

My question is as follows: How does the Minister intend to promote French songs and help the record industry if the Government lets the CRTC lower French content from 65 per cent to 55 per cent in broadcasts from radio stations in Quebec?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am aware that some people disagree with the CRTC's decision in this respect. By law, they can appeal to Cabinet which will then decide on the matter at the appropriate time.

Furthermore, under the last Budget brought down by the Minister of Finance, funding was approved for a new policy that will help the radio and record industries, and in a few weeks we will be ready to announce this new policy.

**REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT ISSUE DIRECTIVE REVERSING
COMMISSION'S DECISION**

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, the situation is very serious.

Would the Minister agree right now to issue a directive reversing a disastrous decision that will prejudice the interests of Francophone creative artists and even jeopardize Quebec's Canadian and cultural interests?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, it is hard to make a judgment before an appeal is made. I believe that logically, we must let these people appeal to Cabinet and when they do, I will report on the Department's position.

[English]

FINANCE**TAX TREATMENT OF LAID-OFF GRIFFITH MINE WORKERS**

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In the November, 1984, economic statement, the Minister clearly stated that tax relief for termination benefits would be offered in "communities where alternative employment opportunities are limited or simply do not exist". Will the Minister tell the House why he is breaking his promise to the laid-off workers of the Griffith Mine in the Ear Falls area of northwestern Ontario?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am not breaking my promise. The criteria which have been established for this type of assistance have not been met by the Ear Falls case, and that is the reason for the decision.

APPLICATION OF DEPARTMENTAL CRITERIA

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister explain to the House in what way the Griffith Mine lay-off does not meet the criteria established by his Department?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the fact that the affected employees live in a number of communities.

Mr. Rodriguez: Oh, come on!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): There are also a number of employers in that region.

An Hon. Member: You are out to lunch.

Mr. McCurdy: It must be outside Ottawa!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): If Hon. Members wish to listen to the answer, I will give them an answer. The simple facts are that there are other major employers in the area.

An Hon. Member: Name one.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The Campbell Red Lake Mine is one.

Mr. Rodriguez: Oh, come off the pot.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, clearly the Hon. Member does not want to listen to the answer. If he wants to speak to me after, I will be happy to talk with him.

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AGRICULTURE**COMMODITY BASED MORTGAGE PROGRAM**

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Agriculture. It concerns the