

Oral Questions

stimulated in the energy sector. As that activity is stimulated in western Canada, people will buy steel from Algoma, and Stelco in Hamilton, and the instrument companies in Kitchener and Orillia, and jobs will be created. It is the reverse of what has happened over the last few years, since 1980 when the National Energy Program came in and we saw a drop in energy activity.

REINVESTMENT BY OIL COMPANIES

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is a straight shooter. He knows that John Helliwell is saying that if the Minister adds on taxes to make up for the deficit we will have a net job loss, not a net job increase.

Will the Minister come clean with Canadians? He has given a windfall to the oil companies, he has abandoned Canadianization, and he is trying to con the rest of us into believing that we will benefit from this. Has the Minister done any studies, or can he assure the House that giving \$1.4 billion to the oil industry will mean that it will be reinvested in jobs, that no additional taxes will be placed on consumers, and the oil companies will not just take the money and run out of the country?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has rolled a number of questions into one, all of which have been answered during the past two days. There is no question that we have not abandoned Canadianization. I responded to that specific question which was asked by the Leader of the Opposition. I responded very specifically last week to the impact which the energy accord would have on deregulation, the reduction of taxation, and the stimulation of economic activity in western Canada. It will affect all of Canada, including downtown Vancouver.

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TRUST COMPANIES

WESTERN CAPITAL TRUST

Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. On March 29 the Minister of State for Finance said in the House that the situation of the Canadian Commercial Bank was an isolated incident. At that time she said: "There are no other financial institutions in the country at the moment that are appearing to be insolvent in any way. On the same day, Western Capital Trust collapsed. Will the Minister explain why the House was given information that was not accurate?"

● (1440)

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, for some months now the Government had been working with Western Capital Trust to try to assist it in merging with another, stronger trust company. At the time the Minister made that statement it was expected that those merger

negotiations would be completed successfully. That is the basis for her comments.

MINISTER'S STATEMENTS

Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, on February 12, in responding to a question about another trust company, the Minister of State for Finance said: "I would like to reassure the House with respect to other western trust companies that I'm not aware of any which are on the brink of collapse". The same Minister said yesterday, as the Minister of Finance has just said now, that her officials met continually over the winter months with the people from Capital Trust. Will the Minister make a statement under Motions today to clarify these conflicting statements?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I don't think they are conflicting statements in the context of the answer I have just given the Hon. Member.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

SATURDAY MAIL BOX COLLECTIONS

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the post office. Canada Post has moved to cut back on Saturday collections from mail boxes. This is a move which reduces working hours and, therefore, requires some 30 days notice to the union involved. Canada Post failed to give that basic notice under the collective agreement. That failure, on the back of 18 policy grievances by the union since last October, has provoked a wildcat walkout. Will the Minister call upon Canada Post to rescind that provocative action, to respect the collective agreement, and to meet with the workers of Canada Post?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member will know, Canada Post and the union are going before the Canada Labour Relations Board this afternoon precisely to look at the legality of the walkout, which I believe is illegal, and to look at the procedures followed under the contract as well. Let me put it to the Hon. Member this way. Will the Hon. Member call upon members of the union to go back to work and do their job of providing a decent mail service which is being paid for by the customers of the Canada Post Corporation, in view of the fact that the people of Canada are entitled to have some assurance that their mail is going to be delivered?

MINISTER'S DISCUSSION WITH CORPORATION PRESIDENT

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Minister well knows that reliable mail service in this country requires good labour relations. If the post office had simply waited another 17 days, had given proper notice, it would have respected the collective agreement and could have talked to its workers.