

Oral Questions

determine a new use for this material, or to determine if a new product could be manufactured in the plant at Port Colborne?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Although it was not clear, Mr. Speaker, from the Hon. Member's misuse of title, I believe he meant to direct the question to me.

The fact is that we have been in touch on a longer term basis, but also as recently as last Friday, to discuss this situation with the company and to use the services which we have under the Employment and Immigration Commission to assist the company in finding both work for workers and transitional arrangements which will try to respond to the problem.

JOB RETRAINING INQUIRY

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. There has been a lack of initiative by this Government. In the western industrialized world, only Ireland and Iceland invest less than we do in research and development. What will the Government now do, and when will job retraining be available for these unemployed workers in the City of Port Colborne?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there does seem to be a certain lack of knowledge on the part of the Hon. Member. I am not responsible for the entire industrialized world with the exception of Ireland. If the Hon. Member is interested in questions about research and development, they would be more appropriately directed to one of my colleagues. I have already given the Hon. Member the answer to the second question he asked. We were in touch with the company as of last Friday. We are discussing with them, and with the unions, programs which we mount to try to respond to the situation there.

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SPACE WEAPONRY

ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPONS—CANADIAN POSITION

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister who will know that the United States plans to move quickly ahead on anti-satellite and other space based weapon development and deployment, thereby projecting earthly folly into outer space. In light of the Prime Minister's stated concern about anti-satellite and other space weapons, and his call for a ban on the testing and development of such weapons, will the Prime Minister assure the House that Canada will not only continue to press for such a ban, but also that we will not participate in any way in the testing or development of anti-satellite or other "Star Wars" weapons or technologies?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, without completely endorsing the premise to the question, because in the proposal which the Government has made we

do make a distinction between high altitude and low altitude anti-satellite systems—well, I see the hon. lady shaking her head. If she wants to know what the Government's policy is, I will tell her that is what it is. There are obvious reasons for that. If she does not understand it, I will tell her sometime.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Cool off. Just walk around the block, Pierre.

Mr. Trudeau: I think I will do that.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I have not the time to tell the Prime Minister that everyone is laughing at his attempt to differentiate between high altitude and low altitude testing. He only has to talk to some of the experts in the field. However, may I pursue the question with him since I did address it to him in a serious manner, and I would hope that he would reply in a serious manner.

REQUEST THAT CANADA REFUSE TO TEST ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPONS

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Will Canada now—not tomorrow, not next month, not next year—say we will not participate in any way, given our abhorrence of the development of "Star Wars" in outer space? Will the Prime Minister give us his assurance we will not participate in any way in the testing or development of anti-satellite or comparable weapons?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have stated to the Hon. Member what the Government's policy was. She can accept it, or not accept it. However, our policy is, and will continue to be, to oppose any form of development of anti-satellite systems in high altitudes. That is our position at the beginning. Whether we can move on to—I see her guffaw, Mr. Speaker, and I really do not understand. She should know that there are anti-satellite systems now at low altitudes. Therefore, it is not a matter of preventing them from happening, as she suggests. They exist now. That is why we are starting with what does not exist so that it not be brought into existence. When she begins to understand that, then I will continue the dialogue with her.

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● (1440)

LABOUR CONDITIONS

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS

Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In view of recent statements made by the Minister of Finance in Montreal that he does not feel there is a youth unemployment crisis, or a lost generation, when considering all aspects of youth unemployment, will the Minister tell