

Government Orders

establish to keep this research lab alive in our community.

I am still awaiting an answer from Mr. Paul Gagnier, the President of Canadian Pacific Forest Products. If by any chance anyone in Canadian Pacific Forest Products happens to be watching the television right now, perhaps they can tell Mr. Gagnier that I am waiting for his answer.

What we are hoping to get here is funding from the federal government for a market study—and that is available because there are programs under the Workers' Adjustment Program—in order to determine whether or not the employees could successfully run that plant themselves under the conditions I described a few moments ago.

I succeeded in reaching a few people. One of them is a University of Ottawa professor who is giving his time to the employees of this plant. His name is Dr. Walter Baker, and I should probably take this occasion to thank him publicly for what he is doing. Dr. Baker is voluntarily helping the employees get themselves together to make a pledge to invest their severance pay, and everything else that they can muster, into a corporation. That would then be utilized as a further show of good will to convince everyone that they are trying their best to keep their jobs alive at Canadian Pacific Forest Products.

What we need, then, to keep at least that particular institution open is, of course, the funding from the government in order to do the needs study for the jobs. I understand that is moving along. But we also need the co-operation of Canadian Pacific Forest Products. They have not said no yet, and they have not been overly critical, but I will say right now on this Friday, April 12, 1991 that there is only a week left before the plant closes. We need answers from them in terms of keeping the plant open for a little while so that then we can get the federal government involved to try to preserve the jobs.

I should also congratulate the employees for their initiative under the leadership of Mr. Ron Dynes of Canadian Pacific Forest Products, who is trying to get his colleagues at the research centre in Hawkesbury to keep this factory open.

[*Translation*]

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me add just a few words about youth unemployment in my constituency. I just told you the unemployment rate is about 16 per cent in my riding, 16.6 per cent to be exact, and according to the manager of the Employment Centre, there is a distinct possibility that the unemployment rate might rise again before the end of this recession. I too hope that this recession will end soon. However, I think, and the Conference Board agrees with this, that we will have to wait a few more months before we see the end of it.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we could at least encourage our young people who will have to face some very tough times this summer. The Challenge '91 program the government offers is a good one. I have received in my office a lot of grant requests. With this money, farmers and small business people, as well as public and para-public agencies, will be able to hire young people this summer. Mr. Speaker, I have for about half a million dollars of requests on my desk.

But from what we have heard at this point, only \$77,000 was put aside for my constituency; that is not much money. I talked to the Minister of State for Youth and want to thank him. Without going into details, I hope we will be able to encourage these young people in difficulty. And if at all possible, Mr. Speaker, since the youths need our help so badly, maybe we could find funds to at least encourage a greater number of them.

• (1340)

[*English*]

Finally, I see that the Minister of Transport is sitting in this Chamber at the moment and I have said this to him before, but I simply want to alert him to the blow that the area is recently seeing approach, regarding one of the largest transport companies in the country, which is based in my riding and known as GTL or the Glengarry Transport Group.

Most Canadians will recognize that the name Glengarry has been made famous through two ways. Glengarry is the home of the Glengarry Highlanders and is the name of that very large transport company in Canada. Well, I am not breaking any secrets by saying that Glengarry Transport is in very big financial difficulty. It was in the newspapers today, yesterday, and a few days ago.