

Oral Questions

be interested in seeing, and that is the question the people of Canada might have to decide later this year or next year.

Mr. Axworthy: I just say to the Hon. Minister, Mr. Speaker, that he has it wrong. The real question is will the people be given the right to decide. It is a very simple question. That is what it is all about.

UNITED STATES OMNIBUS TRADE BILL

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): I would like to ask the Minister this question, if he is now prepared to answer questions on trade. We have now had public statements by the French Government, the Japanese Government, and representatives of the European Economic Community, condemning the United States omnibus Trade Bill as being contrary to the rules of GATT and contrary to the rules of international trade. Yet we have had this Government in full retreat from its March 1 statement on that legislation. The Government has not provided any full statement as to the impacts of the U.S. omnibus Trade Bill on Canadian exports or Canadian business. In fact it is beginning to sound as if once again it is caving in.

Why will the Government not issue a statement and full analysis of the U.S. omnibus Trade Bill, condemning its actions, condemning its impact upon Canada, and asking the President of the United States to veto that Bill because it is contrary to the spirit of international trade rights and agreements?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman's Leader seems to have a slogan and I think it is "leave it to the people". I suggest to him that we should leave it to the people when the Leader of the hon. gentleman's Party starts telling the truth. When is he going to tell the truth on his trips around this country? I would be more worried about my Leader than I would be about the omnibus Trade Bill which is passed by the U.S. Congress and which neither this country, nor any country, can do anything about, just the U.S. Congress.

Ask your Leader to start telling the truth so we can have an honest—

Mr. Axworthy: Tell your Leader to stand up for this country for a change. That's what I am asking.

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INDUSTRY

SITUATION OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF MASSEY COMBINES CORPORATION

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the plight of former employees of Massey Combines Corporation in Brantford. Exactly four months ago today I asked the Deputy

Prime Minister in a letter if the Government would sell its holdings in Varsity Corporation and use the money to help the workers who lost their jobs at Massey Combines Corporation of Brantford. Why is the Government still sitting on over \$30 million worth of shares that serve no public policy purpose, and continuing to ignore the needs of workers who have lost their jobs and benefits, particularly the retirees?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that this unfunded liability falls within the jurisdiction of the province. I may be wrong, but that is my recollection. I have to advise the Hon. Member that I have not fully apprised myself of the latest developments in this respect, but that is my sense of it. In so far as the Government of Canada is concerned, whatever funding is required by the federal Government has in fact been provided. I stand to be corrected on it, certainly, and I will get back to the Hon. Member, if I might.

VARIETY CORPORATION—GOVERNMENT SHARE HOLDINGS

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): No, what I am talking about is the fact that the Canadian Government and the Province of Ontario both hold about \$54 million in common shares in Varsity as part of the restructuring for Massey Combines Corporation a couple of years ago. What I have been asking for the past four months is for this Government and the provincial Government to sell their common stock and put it in a trust fund, the proceeds of which could be used to fund the benefits for the retirees. In addition, there would be money left over annually to assist the workers. There is a precedent for this already established by the federal Government with respect to its help to the workers who were laid off and terminated at Hawker-Siddeley in Central Nova.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what covenants, if any, may apply to this particular fund to which the Hon. Member refers, but I will check into it and get back to him.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PRESERVATION OF ROUGE VALLEY

Mr. Bob Hicks (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Nothing is more important to the people, especially those in eastern Metro, than saving the Rouge Valley. Affordable housing is also important but not in the Rouge Valley. Taking into consideration the massive lands that are now owned by the federal Government which were put together for the Pickering Airport, would the Minister consider attempting to negotiate a trade of some of these lands with the Ontario Government for the Rouge Valley lands, thus assuring preservation of the Rouge area for our children and their children?