

Oral Questions

comes, to put my efforts and those of the government to the test in Windsor.

● (1450)

An hon. Member: Resign!

Mr. Gray: I know that the results will be the same as in past—

Madam Speaker: Order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDUSTRY

QUERY RESPECTING RELOCATION OF WORKERS

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Madam Speaker, for the less favoured areas of Canada, such as the province of New Brunswick, it has been confirmed now that the policies of this government are transparently favouritism toward areas of Canada other than those less favoured areas.

An hon. Member: What do you mean?

Mr. McCain: I would have to say, Madam Speaker, what this means is that the thought process of—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. McCain:—the thought process of the Liberal inventors fossilized around 1957 under the Hon. Walter Gordon.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCain: Does that mean there will be less equalization money, less money for cost-shared programs to New Brunswick, and is that the vehicle by which it will compel people to move, and subsidize their movement? My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend, in his premise to the question, is completely out to lunch. The approach which we take to the development of New Brunswick is exemplified by projects such as the Mitel plant brought about through the efforts of this government, meaning close to a thousand jobs in a high technology area, and efforts like the project I announced earlier this week to bring about the expansion and modernization of the Saint John Shipbuilding and Drydock Company which will bring hundreds of jobs directly and a lot more indirectly to the New Brunswick area to an industry that has great promise in terms of offshore development.

This is the approach we are taking, exemplified by action which will mean more jobs, high skilled and high technology jobs in the province of New Brunswick. It is something I am sure my hon. friend and his party would not have been able to do in the unlikely event that they had continued in office.

METRIC CONVERSION

SUGGESTED PENALTIES FOR FOOD STORE OWNERS

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, a 20-page document leaked to me today confirms that the government intends to jail food store owners who refuse to sell or advertise their products in metric units.

My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. This document also confirms that store owners face heavy fines and confiscation of weighing equipment. Will the minister, who is directly responsible for the Metric Commission, stand in this House today and say that he is permitting this to occur, or will he intercede on behalf of the business community in Canada and rescind the order in council that makes this possible?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, I do not share the pessimistic view taken by the hon. member. We know perfectly well on this side of the House that the Canadian business community is a responsible one, and that when we were developing our metrication policy we received the co-operation of the private sector which assisted us in setting up the schedule for its implementation. We are convinced that retail grocers, like all other representatives of the various sectors of the economy, will be able to follow the guidelines we have established in that regard.

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[*English*]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LAY-OFFS BY BLACK AND DECKER CANADA INC. IN LEEDS-GRENVILLE CONSTITUENCY

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and it arises from a few words in a statement just issued by R. H. Campbell, President of Black and Decker Canada Inc., located in Leeds-Grenville, announcing the lay-off of 150 people. Those words were:

Orders have fallen due to weakening consumer demand, declining housing starts and retailer-wholesaler reluctance to invest in inventory—the direct result of the current soft economy in general, and high interest rates in particular.

Will the minister comment on this statement by Mr. Campbell of Black and Decker Canada Inc. and indicate when the government will stop sitting still while thousands of people lose their jobs and inflation gallops on and interest rates remain disastrous? When will the government implement measures to deal with these serious lay-off problems, rather than have us sit here and listen to him boasting about his accomplishments, which are very much in doubt?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I would like to thank my hon. friend and his colleagues for giving me an opportunity to put the facts forward