

Oral Questions

to pay in lost jobs and plant closures for a free trade agreement with the United States?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we clearly said yesterday evening that our objective was to create jobs. As I have said, and I think that this was in the speech yesterday evening, the new Government has created about 600,000 new jobs since coming into office. This is more than all Western European countries combined, but in spite of this impressive record in the field of job creation, we still say that it is not enough, that we want to do more, and we are going to choose the instrument of international trade to do so.

● (1440)

[*English*]

FOREST INDUSTRY

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Prime Minister. The Canadian shake and shingle industry became a thing of the past on the opening day of negotiations on free trade. But many forest industry workers took note of what the Prime Minister said last night. Just exactly what benefits will be extended to the forest industry in relation to the Auto Pact, as the Prime Minister made the comparison last night?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, what was made abundantly clear by the Prime Minister last night, and as it has been made clear on a number of occasions before, is that we have an instrument of liberalized trade that benefits the auto workers, principally those of central Canada. I do not know why the NDP wants to deny the same kind of advantage coming from a liberalized trade arrangement—

Mr. Broadbent: We've called for it, knucklehead!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): —to the workers of British Columbia, and to the workers of the rest of the country. I do not know why members of the New Democratic Party cannot see the nation whole, as this Government is doing.

POSSIBLE BENEFITS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister and not for the former Prime Minister. It is very simple. I want to know what benefits the Prime Minister is suggesting be extended to forest industry workers, since he compared the Auto Pact and free trade to the forest industry. The Prime Minister just read that into the record. What benefits is he proposing be extended to the forest industry?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, one of the benefits that may well come to the forest industry if these negotiations are successful is that we will not be faced with the same kind of countervail arrangements that are now threatening the softwood lumber

industry in British Columbia. That could well be a consequence of the negotiations. If we do not undertake negotiations, if we do not try, we will never have a better system than the one we have now. The NDP, the Party of the *status quo*, and of 1964—

Mr. Deans: Those are your quotes, not ours.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): —is happy with a system that does not work. We want a better system for Canadians.

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IMMIGRATION

FAMILY REUNIFICATION—COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Immigration. The Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration released its excellent report on family reunification today. However, I note that since 1982 only 12 family-class applicants have been refused on security grounds. In this age of international terrorism will the Minister act immediately regarding recommendation No. 32 to ensure that security clearances will guarantee the protection and safety of Canadians?

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for his question. The report which was tabled only a few hours ago is one which I will want to study extensively. I want to express my appreciation to the members of the standing committee for the work that they have done.

The Hon. Member raises a sensitive question with respect to the desire to have policies that will facilitate family reunification while at the same time balance the security concerns of the country. I can assure the House that I will be consulting with my colleague, the Solicitor General, and other Ministers, to move forward on these recommendations.

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[*Translation*]

RAILWAYS

POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF CN MAINTENANCE SHOPS IN MONCTON

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. The situation is serious.

[*English*]

CN has just announced that it intends to sell its Moncton shops to GE, which will result in the loss of 600 jobs. Last August the Minister gave his assurance that there would be no massive lay-offs and, furthermore, that the shops would not be