

Oral Questions

racism and help eliminate racial discrimination and to bring forward programs that will help in integration and equality.

The member is referring to Halifax. We recently put together a small working committee with the province, of course. The Attorney General and the mayor were very co-operative and helpful. Black community leaders working together came forward with some 94 recommendations which are now being examined very carefully, a process that can help a whole community in its coming together to help overcome decades and decades of that inequality.

We have a very active plan for Montreal as well.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, this supplementary question could be for the minister of employment.

As the government knows, racial conflict is often related to high unemployment. Since there is a clause in the Employment Equity Act requiring a full review of that law this year, would the government help these unemployed Canadians by proposing stronger sanctions to enforce this employment equity law?

I remind the government that the present law has not been successful in providing more jobs for the racial minorities in Canada and the other target groups.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Mr. Speaker, I can inform the hon. member that we are aware the Employment Equity Act is to be reviewed after five years. This timely social measure was introduced by our government. We are making gradual progress, and within the next few weeks we intend to announce on the floor of the House how we intend to revise this legislation, in consultation with those for whom the measure was intended, to make it more effective and ensure the kind of working conditions to which the four groups concerned by employment equity are entitled.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Last summer, the minister appointed the Lacoste Com-

mission to review the Great Whale Project. My question to the minister is this: does he really think he has the right to do an assessment of the Great Whale project? What right does he have to examine Quebec's energy policy? And what right does he have to review Hydro-Quebec's business plan?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with its obligations as imposed by the courts, the federal government announced on July 10 that it intended to proceed with a comprehensive environmental assessment of the Great Whale project. We did so, keeping co-operation with Quebec foremost in our minds. In the mandate of what today is referred to as the Lacoste Commission, it says clearly that the commission will not examine the energy policies of the Government of Quebec.

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Hydro-Quebec representatives told us they would refuse to appear before the Lacoste Commission because the Government of Canada was exceeding its authority, which is limited to migratory birds and marine mammals, and to Hudson Bay.

Could the Minister of the Environment explain why his Lacoste Commission is exceeding its mandate? And why does he want to force Hydro-Quebec to justify its business plan before a federal commission, something it is under no obligation to do under the present Constitution?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I can inform the hon. member that in addition to the federal environmental assessment process provided under the agreement, we must comply with the terms of the federal environmental assessment and review process.

The hon. member for Shefford says no, Mr. Speaker. I just quoted a letter to the Quebec Environment Minister, dated November 20, 1989, and signed by Lucien Bouchard.

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[*English*]

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology.