

tive to documents that had been in the possession of the government replaced at the polls.

There is an arrangement in place, as has been the case for some time now, in the event of a change of government where a senior official of the Public Service of Canada is custodian of documents and will refer back to the Prime Minister and the senior ministers of the former government with regard to the release of any such documents. I, personally, am satisfied that the former prime minister, the present Leader of the Opposition, will not act in any way as to deny access to the McDonald royal commission of documents to which that royal commission should have access.

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### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

#### LOST SALES OF CANDU REACTORS TO ARGENTINA AND JAPAN— EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing):** Mr. Speaker, my question is related to that asked by the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton. During the prolonged period pending the recall of Parliament, Canadians have been witnessing the potential loss of our exports. Mention was made of the loss of the Candu reactor sale to Argentina.

My question is directed to the Minister of State for International Trade: it is with reference to the \$2.8 billion loss which has been estimated as a result of the loss of the Argentina and Japan sales and the 75,000 jobs that have been affected. What specific measures is the minister of state contemplating in order to assist an industry which is now recognized as being in the doldrums and may well in the future need additional financial assistance from this government?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct the hon. member. The \$2.8 billion figure is somewhat inaccurate. The total amount of exports at stake here as far as Canada is concerned was about \$800 million. The balance was local costs in Argentina.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I are taking the opportunity to assess the situation with regard to the loss of this contract, in order to decide where we go from here to develop new markets for what we believe is a very important Canadian resource, the Candu reactor system.

**Mr. Blais:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the hon. gentleman's reply I call to the attention of the House the fact that on May 4 of this year the former government entered into an arrangement, which was initialed, with the state of Mexico. Article 3 of that agreement provides for nuclear co-operation. It was envisaged that a potential Candu sale might be effected as a result.

Can the minister explain why, after five months, especially in view of the Argentina sale loss, AECL, which has been identified as our consultant pursuant to that agreement, has not received any instructions from this government to attend

upon Mexico in order to comply with the terms of the agreement? Indeed, there has not been any approach by the minister or the government toward Mexico relating to implementing the terms of that agreement, much to our loss.

**Mr. Wilson:** Mr. Speaker, there are a number of countries that are potential markets for AECL and for the sale of a Candu reactor. One of them is Mexico. That will be one of the potential markets we will be discussing to see where we go from here. A great deal of time was taken this summer in approaching the Argentine market. That will now be behind us. We can look from here to Mexico and about five other countries which are very good potential markets.

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### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

#### PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS UNDER ACT

**Mr. Fosse Faour (Humber-Port-Au-Port-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Employment and Immigration why, in view of the fact that his party opposed Bill C-14 last November—and opposed it quite strongly, I might add—he promulgated the regulations under that act making regressive changes in unemployment insurance, affecting many thousands of Canadians, including 62,000 Newfoundlanders, and taking some \$34 million out of the Newfoundland economy this year.

**Hon. Ron Atkey (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the changes made as a result of Bill C-14 were a product of a previous Parliament. It fell on the governor in council in the early days of the new government to consider those changes, those that had not yet been implemented, and to proclaim them. The amendments were proclaimed to honour the legitimacy of the previous Parliament in its decision-making process. I can say to the hon. member, and he will have a full opportunity to participate in the debate perhaps later this year or early next year, that a full-scale review of unemployment insurance, including some of those changes, has now been set in motion, in fact four days after the new government took office.

That review will include a variety of subjects, including those that were the subject of debate in this chamber in the last Parliament. I am hopeful that that review, which involves extensive consultations with the provinces, labour, business, women's groups and other interested parties, will be brought to a conclusion toward the end of this year. A new bill, hopefully, will be introduced in the spring. The hon. member, along with all members of the House, will have full opportunity to make known his views on this important subject.

**Mr. Faour:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind the minister that he is now in the government and has the option of changing regulations such as these.

Further to what the minister mentioned about the review procedure that is taking place, can he explain why, in the