

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the current difficulties in the aluminium industry basically arise from the supply excess from Russia.

I believe the glut that is now on the international market will resolve itself through the more orderly marketing of Russian excess production and in the near future we will see a return to more normal circumstances in the world aluminium trade.

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[Translation]

HYUNDAI PLANT IN BROMONT

Mr. Gaston Péloquin (Brome—Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, who is also responsible for regional development in Quebec. In answer to a question on the future of the Hyundai plant in Bromont, the Minister of Finance confirmed yesterday that he had begun discussions with the Quebec government and with Hyundai, in order to find an alternative proposal. Today, we learned that none of the big three American automakers showed any interest.

Given the refusal of GM, Ford and Chrysler to take over the Bromont facility, can the minister tell us what alternatives are being considered by the federal government?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec): Mr. Speaker, this Friday, officials from the Quebec Government, the Federal Office of Regional Development and Hyundai will meet, and we hope that the company will propose a recovery plan or some options. Following this meeting, senior officials from both governments will meet with us, that is myself as minister responsible for the Federal Office, the federal Minister of Industry, and Quebec government's officials, at which time appropriate decisions can be made.

Mr. Gaston Péloquin (Brome—Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I hope that Hyundai will give these people a better reception than this morning, when it refused to meet with the mayors. Given that Hyundai did not respect the commitments it had made to get government grants, does the minister intend to recoup the \$26 million paid by the federal to the company, and will he pledge to reinvest that money to develop sub-contracting activities in Quebec's auto industry, so as to alleviate the impact of the closure of Hyundai's plant, until the facility reopens?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec): Mr. Speaker, the money provided, that is \$23 million by the federal but \$46 million in total by the two levels of government, is guaranteed. It is protected. What we will do

really depends on the outcome of the discussions which will be initiated on Friday with the company.

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[English]

HEALTH CARE

Mr. Roger Gallaway (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

The Ontario government is embarking on a new system of long term health care reform for seniors which will favour the not for profit home care providers, eliminating the commercial provider agencies. As well 20,000 health care workers are employed in Ontario by the private sector agencies.

What does the minister intend to do to ensure that the federal tax dollars transferred to the Ontario government are spent in a cost effective manner?

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada transfers a great deal of money to the provinces to provide extended health services for home care, residential care and nursing home care. Approximately \$550 million goes to Ontario alone.

I must add that the Canada Health Act does not dictate how these dollars should be spent other than to say that they are for extended health care. We believe they are being spent in this manner.

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The exercise of how the dollars are spent and how they organize extended health care is under provincial jurisdiction.

I would emphasize however that I believe they should seriously consider continuing private enterprise in terms of jobs in that sector as it is a cost effective manner of delivering the services within some non-profit agencies.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Leon E. Benoit (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of agriculture.

Many Canadian farmers say they would like to choose between marketing their product through the Canadian Wheat Board, other grain companies or directly with buyers in the United States or other countries.

What steps is the minister taking to give farmers the choice they want and allow farmers and others to compete with the Canadian Wheat Board?

Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food): Mr. Speaker, a variety of representations have been received by me on this particular point. The representations go both ways. Some farmers and farm organizations are