

Oral Questions

say whether the government of the province of Saskatchewan has yet provided all the information requested by the IJC on that project, lack of which prompted the commission to ask for work on the project to be halted? If the IJC now has that information at hand, do we yet have any indication from the commission as to whether or not they regard it as being sufficient for their purposes?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as is always the case with IJC reports, of course, the government took seriously the comments of the commission with regard to the failure, or the reluctance at least, of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation to provide all the material that was necessary at that time. I have since been advised that more information has been provided to the commission. Obviously, this will be examined by the IJC and we will then determine what representations we will make to the United States in light of the new recommendations that come from the IJC.

GARRISON DIVERSION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and it has to do with a related matter, it being the Garrison Diversion project. Is it the government's position that the Canadian government is still—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I point out, with respect, that that is not a supplementary question.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT LAY-OFF OF
STEELWORKERS—STOCKPILING OF NICKEL

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Labour, but I assume he is away tackling Harold Ballard in order to save the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. Therefore, I will put my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that on December 18 the United Steelworkers of America presented the Minister of Labour with a proposal for temporary stockpiling of nickel, which brief the minister was supposed to communicate to the cabinet for a decision to be made, and in view of the fact that the lay-off of thousands of people in the nickel industry will happen in five days, on this coming Monday, and I understand that the minister has not even responded to the steelworkers with respect to their proposal, can the Prime Minister tell the House, since his cabinet has chosen not to respond to the request of the United Steelworkers, whether or not he is going to act on these proposals?

[Translation]

Mr. Jacques Olivier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, first of all I should like to say that the Minister of Labour is in Vancouver, not to try to save the

[Mr. Goodale.]

Tiger Cats but to try to help Canadian workers. To answer the hon. member's question, I should say that there is still a discussion going on and that no decision has been made up to now.

[English]

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER OF MINES HAS UNDERTAKEN
COST-BENEFIT STUDY ON STOCKPILING

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, it gets curiouser and curiouser. My next question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that when I last spoke to the president of Falconbridge Nickel Mines I was informed that the only contact he has had on the question of nickel stockpiling was one brief phone call asking very few questions, and in view of the fact that although it would cost money to undertake a temporary stockpiling program, much of this money would be saved in areas such as UIC, manpower mobility and retraining and expenses under the Canada Assistance Plan covering the social costs of unemployment, can the minister tell this House if the government undertook a detailed cost-benefit analysis on the question of stockpiling nickel and, if such a study was done, will the minister table it in the House?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, the department and I have met with senior officers of both the corporations, Inco and Falconbridge, to examine the question of whether or not a stockpiling system would, indeed, assist that industry. Quite clearly, the conclusion of those discussions and that study is that it would increase the problems of the industry, that there is a significant overhang of nickel inventories in this country and elsewhere in the world, and by adding to that overhang we would be delaying the period of adjustment and therefore keeping more people out of work longer than would otherwise be necessary.

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INDUSTRY

SUGGESTION PROPOSED AUTOMOTIVE PARTS PLANTS BE
LOCATED IN SUDBURY BASIN

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that I knew it was absolutely useless to ask the minister that question, I will now direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that 2,800 workers will be laid off next Monday in the Sudbury basin and this will do massive damage to the community, and in view of the fact that the minister told the House on February 2, and repeated it today, that he is negotiating with the three automotive companies for the location of three parts plants in Canada, can the minister tell the House if he has made any suggestions to the manufacturers in question to locate one of the plants in the Sudbury basin? If he has not, will he undertake to do so, making them aware of the DREE program or other available incentives?