

in the United States than there will be in Canada, so I think the Leader of the NDP should get his facts straight.

Let me say as well that there will be the creation of more jobs in Canada, in Winnipeg and Montreal, as a part of this. I said that we wanted to see how the company's program worked, and it has taken the responsibility in terms of retraining. We will ensure that their programs work because we will stand behind Canadian workers every time.

STATE OF GEORGIA ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said that the company intends to remain competitive. I say to the Minister that the company is already making a profit on those plants that exist in Canada. It is not losing money, it is making money, and the Canadian taxpayers subsidize that as well.

I have here an ad from the State of Georgia I am sure the Minister saw that appeared in the middle of the election campaign that said to such companies: "Come to Georgia because only 18 per cent of our labour force is unionized. We have no minimum wage and don't worry about the environment". Will the Government of Canada say that even with companies that are getting subsidies from the Canadian taxpayer, it will stand back and watch these jobs shift to the United States because of the trade deal? Do you care about the jobs?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that the Hon. Member has been taking his advice from the United States. I do not read the Georgia papers; I read the Canadian papers.

Mr. Broadbent: That was *The Globe and Mail*.

Mrs. McDougall: There is absolutely not one shred of evidence—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister.

Mrs. McDougall: Mr. Speaker, Nortel has 22,000 employees. It has been a growth company and it has been creating jobs in Canada for a long time and will continue to do so. The workers who are affected by these layoffs are workers we care about. The company has made some plans for them in terms of retraining. We will ensure that those plans work.

Oral questions

I do not know how often I have to say this because the Hon. Member clearly does not listen. If the programs Nortel has do not work, we will stand behind the workers. There is no evidence, repeat, n-o evidence that the jobs are moving to these U.S.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1430)

Mr. Broadbent: The workers affected do not want the Minister to stand behind them, they want the Minister to stand with them and keep the jobs in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

MEASURES TO ASSIST AFFECTED WORKERS— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my last question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday, he spoke about the blue ribbon committee which intends to examine the situation of workers who will lose their jobs. But since this committee does not intend to present the Prime Minister with a report, and a secret report at that, until June, what does the Prime Minister say now to the workers who are losing their jobs? Do they have to wait until June?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I said that the committee chaired by Mr. Jean de Grandpré is composed of leaders from all segments of Canadian society and that its reports will surely be most interesting and most valuable for workers. Nobody is talking about waiting until June and the fact is that Mr. de Grandpré is scheduled to meet with the ministers responsible as early as Friday of this week to discuss an interim report.

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[English]

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

DENE-MÉTIS LAND CLAIMS

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. On September 5 the Government signed an agreement-in-principle with the Dene-Métis of the Northwest Territories to settle their longstanding aboriginal claim, which included a commitment to