

approval of the Foreign Investment Review Agency, I would move:

That an immediate investigation be undertaken by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and FIRA to determine whether commitments have been broken by that company with regard to that takeover and whether court proceedings should now be initiated by virtue of the legislation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members have heard the proposed motion. Is there unanimous consent that it should be presented?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### LABOUR FORCE FIGURES PUBLISHED BY STATISTICS CANADA

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Statistics Canada has now confirmed what we have been trying to tell the hon. gentleman for some considerable time, namely, that the hidden jobless rate in this country is much greater than we have been led to believe and substantially more than the figures released every month by Statistics Canada.

Will the minister, as a matter of course, when he releases or responds to the monthly labour force surveys by Statistics Canada, indicate the extent of this hidden unemployment; or, at the very least, since this data is to be computed on a regular basis, will he make known to us the number of people registered at Manpower offices across the country, a figure which is always substantially more than that given in the official labour force survey, so that we may have a true picture of exactly how serious the situation is?

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, Statistics Canada did conduct, in March of this year, an experimental project to determine whether this method of survey could be used. The result was that they felt it was experimental, it was not very solidly based, and they have informed me that the most solid and objective measure of unemployment is the number of those who are without work and who are actively looking for work. Countries which use the household survey method accept that this is, in fact, the best and most honest basis of determining the measure of unemployment.

The provisos expressed by Statistics Canada with regard to the difficulty of obtaining unambiguous and meaningful estimates of the number of people who want work and who are not actively seeking employment are likely to be ignored. They pointed this out in their report, to be fair to StatsCan, and in

### Oral Questions

no way suggested that this number should be made available in addition to the others. We have indicated, in our labour force survey figures, the kind of information the hon. member is looking for. I believe the figure in November was something like 63,000.

**Mr. McGrath:** I asked this question with respect to the March survey in a question I placed on the order paper last June. It is rather interesting that the question was replied to in the House on October 10. At that time I was told that the result of the survey would be released and that they would give consideration to having this additional data on a regular basis. The minister tends to discredit this new data, so I ask whether he feels the same way about his own Manpower offices across the country, because according to the data in March when StatsCan was reporting 1,045,000 Canadians out of work, his offices across the country indicated there were 1,389,000 Canadians registered as looking for jobs.

● (1417)

I ask the minister, so that we can get a reasonable assessment of the situation, whether he could release monthly the number of registered Canadians with the labour force survey at Manpower offices so that we can get the true picture. If not, is he going to discredit his own Manpower figures; or what is the situation?

**Mr. Cullen:** No, Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of discrediting Manpower figures. Many people who are registered at Manpower offices are already at work. Some of those who have registered at Manpower offices have already found work. So if we were trying to misinform the Canadian public, that would be one of the ways to go about it.

StatsCan has the officials, the experts and the professionals to do all of the labour force surveys. They are very good at their jobs. They have indicated that they are trying an experimental approach in March which, as they have said, is fraught with difficulties, fraught with errors, and it would be inappropriate to add those figures to the level of unemployed. We have indicated that to the best of our knowledge, given the information we get from StatsCan, the figure of—"discouraged workers", at the highest, is something like 63,000—and that information is made public.

**Mr. McGrath:** Perhaps I can approach it this way. I checked with my own province where we have, I suppose, more discouraged job seekers than anywhere else in Canada because of the chronic, long-term nature of unemployment. I find that in Newfoundland, for the month of November, while StatsCan was reporting 31,000 officially unemployed, there were 62,000 registered at Manpower offices as looking for jobs. I submit to the minister that those 62,000 people were without jobs: certainly, they would not be registered and looking for jobs in a province where the official rate of unemployment is considerably higher than other provinces.

Let me frame my question by asking the minister the following: in view of the fact that Manpower training and job-creation programs are based on official labour force sur-