

RAILWAYS

FUTURE OF CN SHOPS IN MONCTON

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Canadian National says that Canadian General Electric has expressed an interest in a locomotive manufacturing plant in Moncton. The chief executive officer of Canadian General Electric says that intensive negotiations will begin shortly.

Considering the nebulous state of these negotiations, how can CNR be so specific about the number of people that CGE would keep, the number that would be laid off, the number that would be retrained, and the number that would be retired early?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Benjamin: What is going on in the negotiations—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! The Hon. Member has been more than a minute already on that question.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in an attempt to be forthcoming, on the part of both CNR and Canadian General Electric, and to inform the workers of the extent of their plans, they have used the figures which were in the press release as a basis for the negotiations. They may not be entirely accurate, but on the basis of the preliminary discussions those are the numbers they have come up with.

I think it is encouraging that, of the 1,022 employees, 800 jobs will be secured and 200 people will be eligible for transfer or other benefits pursuant to the corporation. I think it is a good deal for everyone.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is three o'clock.

Mr. Benjamin: I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, it is three o'clock.

Mr. Benjamin: This is a good time to tell me.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! Perhaps if the Member had not taken so long on his first question he would have had time for a supplementary question. Unfortunately it is three o'clock.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I took no longer than anyone else.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! Order, please.

Statements by Ministers

● (1500)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CODE OF CONDUCT

TABLING OF REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION AND OBSERVANCE—
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF CANADIAN COMPANIES
OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 67(2), I rise to table in both official languages a report on the administration and observance of the Code of Conduct concerning the employment practices of Canadian companies operating in South Africa. A limited number of complete sets of the annual public reports issued by 14 of the 17 companies covered by the Code are available from my office. I understand the three reports still outstanding will be submitted shortly.

If I may, I want to add a word of thanks to the administrator, Mr. Albert Hart, and the Canadian companies who cooperated with him and whose annual public reports are now for the first time available.

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STATEMENT OF SOLICITOR GENERAL OF CANADA

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON CLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION
AND SECURITY CLEARANCE

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House that the Government has undertaken a major reform of its policies governing classification of information and personnel security screening. The current policies have been criticized from all quarters, and justifiably so. Too much information has been classified and far too many security clearances are being requested by departments. The policy on security classification of individuals is a full three decades old, dating back to 1956. Cabinet Directive 35, which guides the security screening process, dates from 1963.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it's time that the Government brought its security system into the eighties. We are particularly conscious of the mounting cost of the security clearance program and the growing backlog of requests from departments for clearances based on these old policies. In far too many cases, security clearances are unjustified and unnecessary. Such a system undermines security, instead of ensuring its effectiveness.

[English]

I am announcing measures today which will ensure a significant reduction in the demand for security clearances, and require that security clearances undertaken are justifiable, equitable and effective. Our new policy is guided by four basic principles. First, we want to ensure that only Government