

mier Devine. Those assurances have been given and there will be continuing consultations while this bill is before the House.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

Since the beginning of the year, businesses in Montreal have published 85 notices of permanent collective lay-offs, resulting in the loss of about 6,000 jobs in Montreal. Yesterday, we asked a number of questions about the loss of 200 jobs in Montreal at Eastern Airlines, while this month, Domtar announced the loss of 500 jobs and VIA Rail the loss of 900 jobs.

Is the government now prepared to listen to Montreal's workers and implement a special program to replace these lost jobs? What does the Government intend to do?

Hon. Jean Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce has a very selective memory, because if he took the time to calculate the number of jobs created in the Montreal region between September 1984 and September 1989, he might realize, to his surprise, that 160,000 jobs were created on Montreal Island since our government came to power. We can even do better than that, Mr. Speaker, because if the Hon. Member would take the trouble to compare the results under this government with the results under a Liberal government of which he was a member, he would realize that under his government, Montreal Island lost 4,000 jobs. That is the difference between a liberal government and a conservative government!

[English]

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, so far this year, 6,000 lay-offs have been announced at Montreal. These include Gillette, 590; Weston, 360; Kraft, 290; Warnaco, 140; Simpson's, 1,100; Marconi, 300; Geoffrion-Leclerc, 300; Northern Telecom, 250; Hostess, Frito-Lay, 110; Rothman's, 239; Vickers, 380; M.A.N. Ashton, 215; Unisys, 230; Domtar, 500; VIA Rail, 913; Eastern Airlines, 200 jobs. When will the government stop its rhetoric and give us some action?

Oral Questions

Mr. Charest: Mr. Speaker, speaking of rhetoric, the member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce knows full well that under this government, on the Island of Montreal we created 160,000 jobs which compares fairly well to the fact that under the last Liberal government 4,000 jobs were lost. The unemployment rate on the Island of Montreal in Quebec went from 11.3 per cent to 8 per cent.

I noticed also on the list of things that have happened on the Island of Montreal that the hon. member seems to have forgotten a few things, starting with Bill C-22 which this government put through. What about the investment in Canadair that created 2,500 jobs? What about the space agency? What about the Liberal government's memory? The Liberals have know better than to get up and give us a sermon about the Island of Montreal.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture. It concerns the yoghurt and ice cream decision. Last week Robert Wright, the Canadian representative at the GATT negotiations in Geneva, said that the decision on yogurt and ice cream was so narrow that he could not see how the dairy supply-management system could continue to operate and that Canada was being asked to abandon its system. Those are devastating words coming from the Canadian representative at the GATT negotiations.

I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture can make a commitment today to Canadian dairy farmers right across the country, which will have an implication for other supply-management systems and marketing boards in this country, that the government will oppose this decision by the GATT panel and will refuse to implement it.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is absolutely right, this is a very narrow decision and that is precisely why this government, before the MTN negotiations, has taken the position that Article 11 has to be strengthened, clarified and brought into line with the realities of the 21st century. The fact of the matter is the wording that was developed in 1947 leaves open interpretations that allow these kinds of decisions to come forth.