

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Take us on one at a time, Joe.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The reference in the document was to discussions. The document then went on, as was just read to us by the new spokesman for the U.S. trade representative, to talk about negotiations. There is a difference between discussions and negotiations. We cannot help what is raised at the table. If somebody wants to raise something at the table, and they might want to raise something at the table, we have to answer it. We are prepared to discuss it. What we say about the Canadian Wheat Board, so there can be no misunderstanding, is that it is not negotiable.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

UNITED STATES POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, in reply to an earlier question that is not what the Minister said. The earlier question was with respect to whether it was being negotiated and talked about and the Minister said no. If I understand him now, the Americans are correct when they say that if they put in on the negotiating table they are talking about it. Is the Minister prepared to confirm that or not?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Wheat Board is not being negotiated in the trade discussions between Canada and the United States.

Some Hon. Members: Slower, Joe.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The Canadian Wheat Board is not being negotiated in the trade negotiations between Canada and the United States.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF ACID RAIN CONTROL PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw the attention of Members to the presence in our gallery of an American friend of Canada from the Izaak Walton League of America, the Acid Rain Control Project Co-ordinator who has and is working with Canadians and the Government of Canada for a joint Canada-U.S. acid rain program, Mr. Paul Hansen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

LABOUR

LAY-OFFS IN SAINT-HENRI—WESTMOUNT RIDING—MEASURES GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In my riding, in Saint-Henri—Westmount, we have had another disaster: 300 lay-offs. What does the Government intend to do to protect these workers who are desperate?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, let me draw the Hon. Member's attention to the fact that in a period of change, as I am sure the Hon. Member would be quick to admit, there will be changes in employment in different companies. Some companies may shut their doors. But the important thing is that we keep creating new jobs on an incremental basis. We have been creating new jobs. We have created over 700,000—

Mr. Benjamin: Part-time at minimum wage.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The Hon. Member says "part-time". He knows that 80 per cent of the jobs that have been created since September of 1984 are full-time jobs.

Mr. Broadbent: Where?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): In the Province of Quebec 175,000 jobs have been created. So while there have been shut-downs, and we understand that, the important thing is that net of any of the shut-downs, any job losses, there have been new jobs created, 175,000 in the last two-and-one-half years.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INTERVENE

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, that is not really an answer to my question, because in the industry, at Coleco in Saint-Henri, today there are 300 workers who are desperate. In fact, there have been quite a few plant closings recently in this industry.

I would therefore like to know whether the Government intends to do something such as setting up a specific program to protect these workers and stimulate the economy in this sector, in order to create new jobs in the south-west section of Montreal.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite clear our Government has stimulated the economy across Canada, and that includes Quebec.

I said in my last answer that 175,000 jobs had been created since September 1984. That is the purpose of this Government's economic policy, and we have had a great deal of success with this policy.