

PROPOSED SALE OF CANADAIR

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, given the admission by the Chairman that Magna is directly involved in the loan, will the Minister agree to suspend all discussions about the sale of Canadair, which directly involves Magna, at least until the Parker Inquiry has been completed?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the Hon. Member would have accepted your admonition and conducted herself accordingly.

Ms. Copps: I am asking about Canadair.

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CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

DEPUTY MINISTER'S MEMORANDUM

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In a response to a previous question the Minister said she had not seen the memo from her Associate Deputy Minister for 55 days. Can she explain to the House why a memo to her from a very senior person within her Department was not delivered to her personally within that time period?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the subject in question, that is, whether or not Community Futures should be proceeded with in the Acadian Peninsula and in other parts of New Brunswick, was one of ongoing discussions. Therefore, the question of how Community Futures would be applied, whether in New Brunswick, in the Acadian Peninsula, or in other parts of the country, was a subject with which I was familiar.

TREATMENT OF MEMORANDUM

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. If anyone in her office believed this memo was in any way different from the policy of the Government, why would they not show that memo to the Minister?

Mr. Nystrom: In 55 days?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Because, Mr. Speaker, as I said, the memo dealt with—as I saw it last night—the question of how one accelerates—

Mr. Tobin: How to help Richard.

Miss MacDonald: —the processes in two sets of negotiations which were going on in New Brunswick. We had tried to say to the Province of New Brunswick, “we want to see these negotiations speeded up”. We wanted to deal with them more quickly.

Ms. Copps: Blackmail.

Miss MacDonald: That is what we have been trying to do. That was the subject of the memo. I suppose, in looking at it, it

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was decided that because we were already proceeding along that track it was not necessary to give me a memo as well to that effect.

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[Translation]

TRADE

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF NEW TARIFFS ON BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, some French-speaking media in Quebec have claimed that French-speaking readers will be penalized by the tariffs you have announced on books last Monday, because they would only apply to French-language books.

Could you clarify the situation for Quebecers, and tell us on which books and periodicals those new tariffs apply?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, those tariffs apply to English-language books only. No French-language book or periodical of any origin will be affected by those new tariffs.

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SHIPYARDS

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF VERSATILE VICKERS LAY-OFFS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

This morning, there were 50 new layoffs at the Versatile Vickers plant, for a total of 300 in the last three weeks. Can the Minister tell the House whether those job losses are the direct consequence of the request made by the Government to Mr. Saunders to rationalize Quebec's shipyards?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

[Translation]

ALLEGED MANDATE OF MR. SAUNDERS TO RATIONALIZE SHIPYARDS—AWARDING OF CONTRACTS TO THREE SHIPYARDS IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister says that the answer is no and since Mr. Saunders has said that he was forced by the Government to do this dirty work, would the Minister be willing to cancel the mandate of Mr. Saunders to rationalize the shipbuilding industry? Second, would the Government be willing to give out contracts to provide employment for the workers of the three Quebec shipyards?