

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the relationship between myself and the airlines is no cosier than the relationship between myself and the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crosbie:** I have a decent regard for the fact that he is doing a sincere and honest job for his Party, and I have a decent regard for the fact that the President of Air Canada, and the Presidents of Canadian Airlines or Wardair are doing an honest and decent job for their airlines. Our relationship is no cosier than that. The same is true with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Easy. You were doing just fine.

**Mr. Crosbie:** The relationship is no cosier than it ever was. In fact, in St. John's on Sunday they had given away my seat. That is how cosy the relationship is. Fifteen minutes before the flight left I got to the counter and they said that my seat had been given away. That is how cosy we are.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Riis:** A forerunner of things to come.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** You needed a whole row.

**Mr. Crosbie:** My row was given away.

The question raised by the Hon. Member has been investigated. There was no security breach. This was a charter flight. I do not have the time to go into this now. My reply will go to the hon. gentleman as soon as I can get it to him, which will probably take another month.

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[Translation]

**LABOUR**

## REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM TO HELP OLDER WORKERS

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Since November 1986, the Minister has been negotiating with the provincial governments with a view to introducing a new assistance program for older workers, but so far nothing has been done. However, since 1987, hundreds of workers who would have been eligible under the old program have been penalized because the Minister decided to terminate the old program before renewing the new program. Could the Minister inform the House what the situation is with respect to the provincial governments, and when older workers in Quebec, Ontario, the Maritimes and Western Canada will be eligible for the assistance program for older workers?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to repeat for the benefit of the Hon. Member and other Members that the old program was not terminated or cancelled by this Government. The former program set up by the previous Government was to be terminated under the previous Government, but we extended the program for a year and it was supposed to expire in 1985.

As for current negotiations, these have been going on for some time. In fact, I have just finished a new round of discussions with all my provincial counterparts on the new POWA program, and I am pleased to be able to inform the Hon. Member that I shall be seeing my Quebec counterpart on Thursday.

## REQUEST FOR COMMITMENT OF FUNDS FOR OLDER WORKERS

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montréal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, since the Minister is unable to give a satisfactory answer to older workers and considering the slogan: Losing your job is tough but at fifty-five it is real tough . . . I agree that losing one's job is tough and that it is really tough at fifty-five. Since the Minister said he extended the early retirement program for a year, doesn't he think it would be more sensible to announce immediately that he will extend the former program for older workers and that as soon as we have a new program, he will terminate the old one? In any case, it is a situation which penalizes the workers. Instead of spending money on announcing a program that doesn't exist, spend it on helping older workers!

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour):** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my hon. friend for mentioning this advertising paid for by my colleague the Minister of Employment and Immigration and not the Department of Labour. In fact, if my hon. friend had had the honesty to quote the whole message, he would have recognized that workers who are 55 years of age can get assistance through our employment strategy programs to find new jobs, for this is one of the things we have been trying to do, creating new jobs for older workers. As a matter of fact, we have created over one million jobs since 1984 and we intend to continue to create new jobs for workers, especially older ones.

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[English]

**ENERGY**

## GEORGES BANK—PROVINCIAL OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED DRILLING FOR OIL

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I am sure he is aware that Bill C-75, the Bill with respect to an agreement on the offshore between Canada and the Nova Scotia, is now being held up in a legislative committee while the