

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Axworthy:** This is the way to conduct negotiations.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Where is Tom when we need him?

**Mr. Axworthy:** We are waiting for the answer.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Tom's brother's confusion is contagious.

The Government of Canada has co-operated extensively with the provinces in terms of the exchange of information. As I said earlier, I welcome the decision of the Government of Ontario to undertake these types of studies. I hope other provincial Governments will also do that. There will be discussions on Thursday at the First Ministers' Conference with respect to the degree and the means by which the provinces can be fully involved in any negotiations which might ensue. That will naturally deal with the question of the degree of the exchange of information.

● (1430)

**Mr. Langdon:** I think the Minister is perhaps at a loss for words because the details of his studies have finally leaked out.

#### AUTOPACT INQUIRY

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister confirm, despite promises to the contrary in this House of Commons, that one study which the federal Government has commissioned, by C.D. Arthur & Associates, is to "prepare an assessment of the issues involved in folding the Autopact into a new trade agreement"?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will put the answer in two tranches. First, I have replied with respect to the position of the Government regarding the Autopact earlier in the House, I believe in answer to a question put by the Hon. Member. Second, with regard to the Hon. Member's specific question about a particular study, I will have to see what is the subject matter of that particular study and I will, naturally, advise the Hon. Member of the subject matter.

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#### NATIONAL TRAINING ACT

##### PURCHASE OF JOB TRAINING FROM PROVINCES

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. We know that several provinces are angry and feel deceived with the federal Government's decision to cut by 50 per cent its purchase of job training from the provinces and that the provinces intend to raise this at the First Ministers' Conference in Halifax later this week. Considering the rhetoric of the Prime Minister on many occasions that he supports job training, would he make a commitment today, before he

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goes to Halifax, to cancel those cuts in job training and maintain federal Government budgets and provincial participation at the same level as last year? Would the Prime Minister make that commitment before he goes to Halifax?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, as the House will be aware, the agreements under the National Training Act will expire on March 31 of next year. Negotiations are now under way with the provinces and I can advise the Hon. Member that there are a number of proposals on the table. My provincial counterparts and I will be meeting again in mid-December to continue these discussions.

**Mr. Allmand:** As far as I know the conference in Halifax is a First Minister's Conference and the Prime Minister is responsible for the policy of the Government. It is that kind of evasion in answering which is the reason that 52 per cent of Canadians—

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Order.

**Mr. Allmand:** —disapprove of the Government's performance.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** And 77 per cent voted against you.

#### REQUEST FOR RETENTION OF PURCHASE LEVEL

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** I am asking the Prime Minister if he will cancel the proposed cuts in the purchase of job training from the provinces and maintain those programs at the same level as last year, as many provinces want? Will he do that before he goes to Halifax?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the emphasis of the Canadian Jobs Strategy is on training.

**Mr. Allmand:** Nobody believes you.

**Miss MacDonald:** And there will be more money spent on training by this Government than there has ever been in the past.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Allmand:** Fifty per cent cut-backs.

**Miss MacDonald:** I just want the Hon. Member to be aware of the new opportunities which this offers for Canadians—

**Mr. Allmand:** Convince the provinces of that.

**Miss MacDonald:** —and he should not always take a negative attitude toward such opportunities.