

interest rates down. We expect that will happen during the course of this year.

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#### WAYS AND MEANS

**Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I refer to the notice of Ways and Means motion to amend the Income Tax Act as it affects the child tax credit.

The minister has indicated that this measure will allow 730,000 families to qualify for prepayment of the credit.

What exactly will be the effect of this change on a large Canadian family, and how many children will be affected?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, this provision provides for a more generous prepayment of the child tax credit for families with three children or more.

The effect of it will improve the fairness of the tax system and allow people with larger families to receive that prepayment in the month of November. It will also allow 70,000 additional families with a total of about 236,000 children to be eligible for the prepayment.

There is a cost factor in this. It will move the cost of this one year forward, so there is timing element here. The over-all cost to the government will not increase.

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[Translation]

#### NAZARETH THERMAL GENERATING STATION

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel):** Madam Speaker, I would like first of all to congratulate the Minister of Labour for his further appointment as Minister of State (Transport), and to ask him if he will contact immediately the Canadian National immediately to prevent them from making a sale. That crown corporation does want to sell its Nazareth thermal generating station in Montreal for a price that is absolutely, ridiculously unreasonable, a garage sale price.

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour and Minister of State (Transport)):** Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his congratulations, which I am very pleased to accept. I will endeavour to keep working for the

#### Oral Questions

well-being, improved quality of life and prosperity of Montreal Island.

Since my duties as Minister of State (Transport) have just been added a few hours ago, I will look into the hon. member's question and will report to him as soon as the House reconvenes.

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel):** Madam Speaker, I thank the minister but I would suggest he might want to act very quickly because this sale is to be made to *Compagnie parisienne de chauffage urbain* and I am told that the deal will be concluded in the next few hours.

I remind the minister that this Montreal heating plant has been posting annual profits in excess of \$3 million. It seems to me there is something rather fishy in this sale, given the price.

Since the minister also handles the labour portfolio, I want to ask him whether he will give priority to this deal and what steps he will take to protect the employees who, after 20 years on the Canadian National payroll, will be summarily dismissed by *Compagnie parisienne*?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour and Minister of State (Transport)):** Madam Speaker, I have to give a similar answer to the Hon. Member for Papineau—Saint-Michel. I will look into the terms of this deal in the next few days and endeavour to get back to him at the earliest opportunity.

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[English]

#### HEALTH

**Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. This government is committed to building a \$100 million medical lab in Winnipeg. Until today, everything appeared to be in order. Now we get the news that the lab is going to be delayed until 1995. This is another betrayal of Manitoba. The west gets the shaft again. No one in the government is standing up for Manitoba. I think that the senior minister for Manitoba should do the honourable thing and resign.

My question for the Deputy Prime Minister is this: Is this delay just another way of saying that Winnipeg will never get the lab?