

*Oral Questions*

worse than they were for 1990. We are witnessing the deindustrialization of Canada.

I want to ask this minister and this Acting Prime Minister: What specific policies do they intend to introduce to reverse their disastrous economic policies and start putting Canadians back to work?

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Madam Speaker, it is very obvious that the solution that the Liberals tried of throwing money at the problems did not work. The secret is to get interest rates down, to get inflation down, and to keep them down so that we can have permanent jobs. That is what the budget is designed to do.

I find it rather surprising that the acting Leader of the Opposition would in fact blame a budget of one week ago for the employment statistics that came out today for last month. That is Liberal figuring.

The hon. member also made mention that manufacturing is disappearing. I might point out to her a report from the Royal Bank which said that at the end of 1990 our manufacturing base in the Canadian economy was 9.5 per cent above where it was at the end of 1982. She should get her facts right.

[*Translation*]

**Ms. Sheila Coppins (Hamilton East):** Madam Speaker, I am referring to this government's poor economic management which started six budgets ago. In Montreal alone, 222,000 Canadians are living proof that your economic policies have failed. That is more than in any city in Canada, including Newfoundland.

I would therefore like to put the following question to the Acting Prime Minister: What specific policies will he introduce, starting today, to reverse the bankrupt policies of this government?

**Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of State (Youth), Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, I can inform the Acting Leader of the Opposition that the government has, in recent years, introduced several policies to stimulate the economy in Montreal.

**Mr. Gagliano:** What policies?

**Mr. Danis:** I will tell you what policies. For instance, we had the policy initiated by the Minister of Industry,

Science and Technology, who invested \$112 million in southwest Montreal to stimulate the economy. And there are others. For instance, we have the Space Agency on Montreal's south shore, where a total of \$300 million will be invested. And if you want another example, we have the petrochemical industry. Where, following the Prime Minister's personal intervention, the federal government invested \$55 million. We also have the Minister of Employment who created a training centre for workers in the petrochemical industry.

And now for another example: Since we came to power in 1984, we created 83,000 new jobs while between 1980-1984, your government registered a net loss of 5,000 jobs.

• (1120)

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Madam Speaker, the answer of the Minister of State should be displayed in the "museum of jokes" the government is setting up in Montreal.

[*English*]

Madam Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The brutality, the cruelty of this government's economic policies have been demonstrated once again by today's unemployment numbers. In Ontario alone, the unemployment rate has gone up some 79 per cent over the past year. These are not just numbers on a page, they represent the lives of tens of thousands of Canadians this government is throwing on the economic scrap heap.

Why will the Deputy Prime Minister not admit that the unemployment numbers that came out today show that last week's budget is the wrong budget, at the wrong time, and is making things worse, not better, for hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Madam Speaker, just the opposite. It was the right budget for this time. There is no question about that.

Those who looked critically at the budget in a very fair and honest way support the Minister of Finance in his attempt to lead us back to recovery of the economy.

I might remind the hon. member, who rants and raves in the House all the time about figures, that today there are 1,283,000 more people working in Canada than there were when we took power in 1984. That is the number one figure. The number two figure is that unemployment