

Oral Questions

10,000 fewer such housing units will be built next year because of this budget.

I ask the minister how he will do more for social housing when the number of units next year will be 10,000 less than this year.

Hon. Gilles Loisel (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the hon. member that next year the government will spend over \$2 billion for 650,000 federally supported social housing units that will provide homes for 1.5 million people.

Of course, we also announced in the budget a 3 per cent increase in the amount we spent last year to build social housing.

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EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

The government presented its budget as the greatest invention of the century for putting our unemployed back to work. The reality is quite different. The estimates show a \$100 million cut in labour force training, in addition to the \$126 million cut last year.

Why does the government want to take hope from our unemployed by letting other countries get ahead of us?

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Mr. Speaker, first I want to remind the hon. member opposite that this government respects its commitments and that the first commitment we made to Canadian workers is to provide training and skills acquisition.

Our program has been increased by \$300 million and unemployment insurance is now a positive, active program instead of a negative, passive one. We definitely intend to continue to develop a work plan suitable for all workers seeking employment and to do so in co-operation with business, the private sector and our commission, which is to set national priorities for us.

[English]

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, we are going through one of the greatest periods of change in the world's trading relationships since the Middle Ages.

Despite this, almost every government responsibility that is forward looking has been cut; the Science Council, the Economic Council, the green plan, \$100 million cut from job retraining for those who are not eligible for unemployment insurance.

What is the government saying? That it is giving up. I would ask the minister not to give me a partisan answer, simply tell me how can we build the kind of country that we all want if the government is going to take away the very tools that will enable the country to get there?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Mr. Speaker, is it necessary to repeat that we must work to deal with the globalization of markets? That is what we are working on in the Department of Employment and Immigration.

It is absolutely impossible to make progress without thinking about this globalization of markets. Recommendations from chambers of commerce and from all the consultants with whom we have worked confirm, as he says very well, the need to be prepared to face the globalization of markets. That is what we are working on through our jobs strategy programs.

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[English]

JUSTICE

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. The human rights tribunal has been told that the government will use legislation to nullify decisions on pay equity that it does not agree with. The Law Reform Commission has been quashed just weeks after delivering a report on aboriginal justice that is counter to the view held by the Minister of Justice. Yesterday the government announced that it was killing the Court Challenges Program midway through its contract, a program which gives