

Oral Questions

The corporation works with a board of directors that well represents all of Canada. It has already approved about 30 projects showing what Canadians have done in the past 125 years. I think that it works very well and I and the government are working with the corporation.

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[English]

JUDGES' SALARIES

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Prime Minister or his Irish friend on his right, the Minister of Finance.

Will he confirm that his government will add a cost of living allowance to the salaries of Canadian judges which I calculate will cost \$10 million additional next year? Will he tell the House why he is increasing the wages of judges who already make over \$147,000 per year when, out of the same moneys, the government could fund a Court Challenges Program for five years? Does his government have any priorities?

• (1450)

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, I believe that question anticipates an Order of the Day as the Judges Act is currently before the House.

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NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The National Drug Strategy expires at the end of March. Will the government be renewing it and when will we know?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I thank the member for the very intelligent question, Madam Speaker. A very brief question and the answer will be brief.

We are working on the file on the drug strategy and I am looking forward to being able to make an announcement soon.

[Translation]

RAILWAYS

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Because of his government's economic policies, Montreal faces losing another 250 jobs, this time at CP Rail. More than 1,000 jobs were eliminated in the railway sector since the beginning of this year, in a city where one out of every two adults is out of work.

When will the government start taking poverty in Montreal seriously and implement a genuine recovery plan to provide real jobs for people in Montreal who really need them?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, the hon. member must know that recently the federal government announced a number of agreements on industrial development and tourism, especially for the Montreal area. We are now negotiating a very substantial announcement for the Montreal area with the Government of Quebec.

We have had astonishing results with our programs for east and southwest Montreal. In fact, the federal government has done a great deal for the Montreal area and intends to go on doing so in order to meet the specific needs of Montreal's community.

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Madam Speaker, the minister makes announcements but ignores the fact that every day we read announcements that hundreds more jobs will be lost in Montreal.

[English]

In only two years, 28 per cent of the jobs in the Montreal manufacturing sector have been lost. The real question is when are you going to introduce a policy that really creates jobs and not just gunsmoke, saying that you are announcing a program when every day we are losing jobs? When are you going to announce a real program?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I would appreciate if, with honesty, the member would say all the jobs which were created in Montreal. He knows very well that in the aerospace industry, the telecommunications industry,