

Oral Questions

Ms. Mitchell: There is absolutely no justification for taking money from children, Mr. Speaker, when there is money coming in through the economy.

USE OF MINIMUM TAX REVENUE

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): I want to ask a question of the Finance Minister this time since the Prime Minister will not answer. He has recently introduced a minimum tax, or is in the process of doing so. We agree with that: we will have \$300 million extra in the kitty.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a question please?

Ms. Mitchell: Will the Finance Minister use the \$300 million as extra income to reindex the family allowance in 1986?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member continues to isolate the family allowance. If she is going to be honest with herself and her constituents, she will be looking at this as a total package. The child tax credit has been increasing significantly, much higher than the reduction in the growth rate of the family allowance. As well, something she herself has been calling for—

Ms. Mitchell: It is still deindexed. Answer the question.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): —is a reduction in the child tax exemption.

I would like to be able to say to the Hon. Member that as the economy performs, as we are able to generate the economic activity, that is starting to occur in a very favourable way and the OECD report has been, I think, quite pointed in the way it has referred to the economy this year, by saying that it has no policy recommendations for the Government of Canada. Because things are going so well the OECD has nothing more to add to the policy directions that we have already taken.

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● (1140)

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION
TOWARD PEOPLE OF PORT-CARTIER

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago the Prime Minister had the nerve to inform the House he was available, when we know that the Mayor of Port Cartier has been trying to reach him for a month and a half, but without success.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister told the people of Port Cartier that with him as their elected representative, the employment problem at the ITT plant would be dealt with.

For months, Cascades Inc. has been setting up a project, and the only other partner they need to carry out the project is the federal Government.

I want to ask the Prime Minister: Why does he insist on undermining the credibility of the promoter and on ignoring urgent calls for help from the Mayor of Port Cartier and people who are seeking jobs?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member's statement is erroneous in the extreme.

On the North Shore, we did indeed inherit a disastrous situation, thanks to the policies of the Liberal Government and the federal Government in Port Cartier, where the impact was very serious indeed. The federal Government has agreed to invest \$60 million at Port Cartier which will create 450 new jobs on a permanent basis, something the people appreciate as a very important step.

Furthermore, regarding the ITT matter and others as well, I had an opportunity to discuss this last Friday with Premier Bourassa, who is very interested in this particular case. If there is a solution, it will take joint action on this issue and on others as well. In fact, we will probably have an announcement to make in the near future.

CASCADES INC.—GOVERNMENT'S OFFER—PRIME MINISTER'S
POSITION

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. The Prime Minister may have discussed this with the Premier of Quebec, but the Quebec Premier's offer is on the table. I just spoke to Mr. Bernard Lemaire, President of Cascades, who told me that if by January 1 the federal Government had not made its offer of \$12 million as stipulated, there would be no more promoter—

Mr. Speaker: The question, please!

Mr. Lapierre: Is the Prime Minister going to deliver the goods by January 1? Otherwise, he can kiss the project goodbye.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): That is interesting. Now if the promoter feels that the way to proceed is through the Liberal Opposition, that is his concern. But as far as we are concerned, we are handling this jointly with the Government of Quebec.

Mr. Malépart: Shades of Duplessis!

Mr. Mulroney: There is a joint dossier involving both the Quebec Government and the federal Government.

Mr. Bourassa was sworn in last Thursday. We met that Friday, the very next day.

Mr. Ouellet: A federal decision!