

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is way out of line. This government in terms of its support for Mr. Rushdie and for human rights in Iran has been in the forefront. I am really sorry the hon. member is not prepared to commend the government for the kind of work it has been doing in this area.

Let me say as well that in terms of the line of credit our sales to Iran are very limited. Our sales to Iran consist largely of wheat and other agricultural products. We always very carefully monitor the kinds of sales we make to countries where there are human rights violations, particularly in the arms area and particularly in areas that are sensitive and important for Canadians.

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#### SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of employment.

The majority of the so-called voluntary quitters, according to UIC's own statistics, are low income, non-unionized women who are the most vulnerable to sexual harassment. Will the minister at the very least admit this and establish today clear guidelines for his government on sexual harassment?

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the unemployment insurance program is not for people who choose unemployment for no just cause.

Those who have a just cause have the full protection of section 28 of the Immigration Act. It would be unfair to the hard working Canadians who paid premiums into the UI fund if it paid benefits to a person who chose to leave his or her job without just cause. Canadians support this.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, what is unfair and what is scandalous is that this minister does not understand the extent of the sexual harassment problem. There is no effective policy on sexual harassment in his department or in any other government department.

Why will this minister not establish with clarity, with consistency and with some time sensitivity, a workable, rationale sexual harassment policy? It is time.

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has the gall to stand and try to teach this government about giving protection to sexually harassed women.

#### Oral Questions

This is the government that introduced in section 28 protection for sexually harassed women. Bill C-21 was opposed by the Liberal Party.

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#### WESTRAY MINE

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burlington—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of state for small businesses who told the House two weeks after the Westray disaster: "The federal government's role was a very limited one".

Now we know that the federal government was into this one up to its ears. Within two days of that terrible tragedy, the government had set up a task force and has since spent \$300,000 to put its spin on the issue.

Why the need for the spin doctors? Why the stonewalling on this one?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, if this government had not assembled all the documents, produced all the information as the hon. member's party asked us to do, he would be criticizing us.

We did that. It cost us something less than \$300,000 because we used a number of public servants who would have been paid anyway to do it, in order to get full disclosure to this House and to the hon. member.

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burlington—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Prime Minister who will know that contrary to what the minister just implied, the government has budgeted \$400,000 to the end of this fiscal year to deal with the Westray fallout.

Contracts have been let, including one to find loopholes in the Access to Information Act. I ask the Prime Minister: Will he now agree that only a federal inquiry can get to the bottom of this sorry mess? Why does he not admit that while 26 grieving families have been groping for the truth on this one, the government has been spending, blowing taxpayers' money to see that they never get that truth?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, just the opposite is the case. In fact, this government has responded to countless questions already. We have produced thousands of pages of documents and responded fully to the access to information requests as well as to the provisions under the Secrecy Act.