

indicate that what the Minister was attempting to do was to engender thoughtful debate on an important matter.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the economy of this country is desperately in need of clear signals, will the Prime Minister now publicly state that that position attributed to the Minister of Finance, rightly or wrongly, is not the policy of the Government?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the policy of the Government is that which was articulated so well by the Minister of Finance on November 8. It is clear, and speaks to the serious nature of the problems confronting the country.

Mr. Rodriguez: Answer his question.

Mr. Mulroney: It invites substantial discussion and participation. I know that you will want to participate in the debate. The Minister has spoken to it, and I have spoken to it. I hope, when placed in context, that my hon. friend will agree that the manner in which we have done it is not unreasonable.

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CANADA WORKS PROGRAM

REQUEST THAT FUNDING BE TARGETED TO SMALL BUSINESS SECTOR

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In light of the fact that small business creates between 70 per cent and 80 per cent of all new jobs, and that these are permanent jobs connected to real economic growth, will the Minister consider trying to target the funding of the Canada Works Program toward the small business sector, replacing the currently existing focus on the activities of social agencies which although deserving, should be considered under other programs?

Mr. Axworthy: Here we go again.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister I will take notice of the Hon. Member's question and ensure that his very interesting contribution to the debate is brought to her attention.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

NEWFOUNDLAND—STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and it concerns the same Canadian Press interview.

Oral Questions

Earlier, in his economic statement, the Minister of Finance inferred that Newfoundlanders were lazy because they preferred unemployment insurance to jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rompkey: As I read the Canadian Press interview, now he infers that they were too stupid to understand cut-backs in IRDP and family allowances if the Tories had discussed that during the election campaign. In light of these statements by the Minister of Finance, how many more put-downs must Newfoundlanders suffer at the hands of the Minister of Finance? When will the Minister of Finance rid himself of the stereotype image of Newfoundlanders as quaint but inferior Canadians?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I say, with respect to my hon. friend, that I thought that that kind of distortion went out of our political life quite some time ago. The Hon. Member knows full well that the Minister of Finance is a man of uncommon honour and probity.

He has participated in a very substantial way with my brilliant friend, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, in bringing about an energy offshore agreement in Newfoundland which will bring honour, and prosperity, and new opportunities to Newfoundlanders, the likes of which they have not seen since they joined Confederation. I think it is a good day for Newfoundland, and a good day for Canada.

Mr. Rompkey: That untold wealth may come by the end of the decade. In the meantime, the assessment of Bill Davis is that we are poor Canadians.

MINISTERIAL TREATMENT

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister move to stop this cavalier condescension on the part of Upper Canadian Tories? If his Ministers do not understand us, would they at least treat us with respect and dignity?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend knows that he is held in the highest regard and treated with great dignity, certainly by members of my Party and I know by all Members of the House. He has made a splendid contribution to Canada in his time here, and I salute him for it.

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CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

SUSPENSION OF CALGARY CABLE STATION

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Communications, or the Parliamentary Secretary. The CRTC believes the Liberals are