

Oral Questions

REQUEST THAT PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY PAY COST

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, it is clear that that television extravaganza was put on principally for politically showcasing the Prime Minister and feeding his ego. Therefore I would like to ask the Prime Minister to make a commitment to have the Conservative Party pay the cost of that extravaganza rather than the Canadian taxpayer. Will he make that commitment?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that such a thing is a tradition as, for example, I remember such an extravaganza to which I was invited when the President of the United States came to Canada and the then Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, hosted a gala at the Arts Centre. It featured Canadian talent, both English and French-speaking. It was a marvellous display of Canadian talent, in the same way as was the reception for President Reagan in Quebec City. I think that Canadians are proud of their artists, their entertainers, and their cultural communities, and we were honoured to have the opportunity to showcase them in such an international manner.

ORDER PAPER QUESTIONS

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, almost eight weeks ago the Hon. Member for Gengarry-Prescott-Russell raised 20 specific questions regarding the cost of that extravaganza and the cost of the summit meeting with President Reagan in general. Why, after a delay of almost eight weeks, have these questions not been answered? What does the Government have to hide? Is it the cost of the quail, is it the cost of the imported wine, or is it the cost of the caviar that was served to more than 1,800 Tory friends and relatives at functions connected with that extravaganza?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, one can see the priorities of the Liberal Party and one can see the line of questioning, because this morning Statistics Canada announced that since we came to office 201,000 new jobs were created in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Statistics Canada announced that in April, 89,000 new jobs had been created, the largest single monthly increase in five years, and that is what this Government is doing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1120)

Mr. Mulroney: While they are talking about rats and rat packs, we are talking about jobs and hope for Canadians. That is what this Government is doing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

VISIT BY UNITED STATES PRESIDENT—ASSOCIATED COSTS INQUIRY

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I do not know why the Prime Minister deliberately left Newfoundland out when he was flinging around the jobs, because unemployment in Newfoundland has gone up.

I am tempted to move a motion of censure against *The Globe and Mail* for challenging the Prime Minister for throwing Canada's Ambassador to West Germany out of his home. Any Prime Minister worth half a million dollars of warble cannot be expected to stay in the same second-class hotel as Joe Clark and Michael Wilson. There can be no doubt about that.

In addition to the \$500,000 cost of showcasing a frustrated young artist named Mr. Mulroney on Canadian television, while all the others have been cut off, what other costs were associated with the visit by President Reagan to Quebec City on March 17?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is true, unfortunately, that unemployment has risen in Newfoundland. We have made an historic effort to counter that by signing, after 13 years of Liberal indecision, the Atlantic Accord which will bring new hope and prosperity to Newfoundland.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Unemployment declined in seven other provinces. I think that is good news for all Canadians. I think that Canadians watching this are wishing that the Liberals would set aside their cheap partisanship.

I know that the Hon. Member, too, is a fine Irish tenor. And I know that he wanted to sing in Quebec City. But, I am sorry, the stage was not big enough. We are here to create jobs, and the significant figure today and every day is that—

Mr. Tobin: We want jobs.

Mr. Mulroney: He talks about jobs. In a comparable period in the previous year, 72,000 jobs were created, and we have created 201,000. That is our commitment to Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

RESULTS OF MEASURES TO CREATE JOBS

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, with an ego that big, no stage would be big enough for another performer anywhere in Canada.

As a good Irishman, as the Prime Minister pointed out, I am sad that the Prime Minister is living the life of Reilly while 32 per cent of the people in my riding are unemployed. I want to ask the Prime Minister a serious question. Has he ever, between mouthfuls of quail or tidbits of caviar, paused to wonder how the poor people of this country are living? Will he quit his presidential style? He is not a head of state; he is the chief executive officer. The people in the country want work