

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

### INQUIRY RESPECTING REDUCTION IN FUNDING

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Several days ago the minister announced the details of the summer employment program for students. Given that this year's employment situation is much worse than it was a year ago, would the minister explain why his employment program for students for this summer will offer \$20 million less than the same program last year?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member made one mistake. The rate of unemployment for this year is identical to what it was last year at the same time, so that the premise upon which the question is based is not accurate. I would ask the hon. member to look at the entire announcement. We indicated that we were putting \$59 million into a new program to deal with the employment problems faced by the disabled as well as those faced by the chronically unemployed, many of whom are young people. Our objective is to allocate our resources to try to find long-term jobs in the private sector for young people so that they can have a permanent job record and not just rely upon temporary summer employment.

**Mr. Orlikow:** I wish to ask a supplementary question, Madam Speaker. The minister announced about two weeks ago his program for the employment of handicapped people. Most of us thought it was a good program. It is now obvious that what the minister has given with one hand, he has taken away with the other. Given the fact that we have continuing announcements of further plant closures and lay-offs, so that the unemployment situation this summer will undoubtedly be worse than it was last year, would the minister reconsider his proposals and bring forth more money for employment programs for students in the coming summer?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Madam Speaker, we are always prepared to review programs and to try to make sure we are doing the best thing. I go back to the basic philosophy that we are trying to adopt, which is to use our very scarce resources in the most effective manner, that is, to target upon those who have the most difficult employment problems. It certainly is our judgment that where we should focus is upon those who have high levels of unemployment in the regions where jobs are scarce, and that in many cases we should apply that money to deal with the problems of the disabled and, on the general level of youth employment, let the general market take care of it with the stimulation of the economy that was so graciously provided by my colleague, the Minister of Finance.

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

## NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

### DISCUSSIONS WITH QUEBEC CONCERNING HEATING SYSTEM CONVERSION PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR REPORT

**Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. When the budget and the new energy policy were introduced, grants up to \$800, or 50 per cent of the costs of heating system conversions such as from oil to electricity, were to be provided. Many Canadians are wondering what progress is being made in the discussions with the Quebec government and Hydro-Quebec, as they are apparently unwilling to go along with this proposal and could therefore deprive Quebecers, who are of course Canadians, of this grant. Can the minister tell us how his discussions in this regard are progressing?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I should like to report to the House and the hon. member that I met with the Quebec energy minister, Mr. Bérubé, last Tuesday, and that we discussed this specific issue. Mr. Bérubé told me that he intends to send us an official notice of the decision made by the Quebec government in this regard in the very near future. I believe that this will be a matter of days rather than weeks or months. As soon as I know the Quebec government's decision in this regard, I shall be happy to inform my colleague and the House of the results of the consultations now going on with the Quebec government. In any event, we are looking forward to the time when this program is available to all Quebecers.

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[English]

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

### F-18A FIGHTER AIRCRAFT CONTRACT—INQUIRY WHETHER TERMS BEING FULFILLED

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. The signed contract between McDonnell Douglas and the Canadian government at Schedule A, Table 1, shows as a "firm commitment" new work on DC-9s, super 80s, DC-10 stretch, and KC-10s in the amount of \$83 million for each of 1980 and 1981. This is the kind of work that could be done at the McDonnell Douglas plant in Mississauga where hundreds of workers have been laid off. Has this firm commitment, particularly for 1980, been fulfilled and, if not, why not?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services):** Madam Speaker, the hon. gentleman is aware that some questions were asked in the House recently relating to the lay-offs in Malton at McDonnell Douglas affecting about 700 employees. I have been made aware of that, as has the whole House. It is the result of a slowdown, a softening of the market, for the civilian aircraft that the hon. gentleman has described. Effectively that