

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I simply want to remind the Hon. Member that the Canada Post Corporation must manage its funds as efficiently as possible and that it must constantly review its delivery services to achieve a balance between the services provided at best cost. This means that certain corporate decisions such as the one mentioned by the Hon. Member have to be made.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Both the Prime Minister and Minister have just assured us that the Government had no intention of reducing federal contributions to the unemployed when the Forget Commission was set up.

Is the Government maintaining this intention towards the unemployed, and does this mean that the Government will not impose any cutbacks in unemployment insurance benefits for people suffering from unemployment in this country?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Its premise being entirely wrong, Mr. Speaker, how could I answer this question adequately.

The Prime Minister has stated and I have repeated later on that the statement by the Minister of Finance would take into account the whole of the unemployed. This seems to me to be quite clear. That obviously includes those you have referred to.

But, again, we are referring to the statement made by the Minister of Finance.

INQUIRY WHETHER MAJOR CUTBACKS WILL BE MADE

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware that the Forget Report is recommending a \$930 million cutback in unemployment insurance benefits for the province of Quebec alone?

Is the Minister telling us now that the Government may compensate through a number of jobs creating schemes, while effectively making major cutbacks in unemployment insurance benefits, as proposed by the Forget Commission?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Hon. Member to wait until the Forget Commission has tabled its report.

Oral Questions

[English]

MULTICULTURALISM

FUNDING OF TORONTO ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns the deplorable report which was presented to him from his Toronto Conservative caucus. In reviewing the funding for multicultural organizations, the report recommends that:

There should be nothing arbitrary about funding cuts or increases: Liberal funding patterns should be disposed of, and a politically intelligent PC pattern take their place.

This is an insult to the very integrity as well as the allegation—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member no doubt has views as to what it is, but the Hon. Member's obligation is to put a question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, quite simply would the Prime Minister explain what a politically intelligent PC pattern of funding means? Which groups will be cut off financially because they fail to advance the cause of the Conservative Party of Canada?

Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could answer the question. With respect to politically intelligent policies, I would ask the Hon. Member to wait until I come forward with them.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crombie: Second, concerning the other part of the Member's question, that is an insult to the people he chooses to defend.

Mr. Marchi: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has regrettably failed to rise in his place.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Hon. Members know that Ministers have a discretion, including the Prime Minister, whether to answer a question or whether another Minister will do so. Will the Hon. Member put his question?

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Rather than taking it as a joke, will he do the courageous and logical thing—

Mr. Blaikie: Cut him off.

Mr. Marchi: —to dissociate himself and reject publicly this sleazy report so that Canadians can be assured that the policies of multiculturalism and, indeed, immigration are