

[Translation]

### UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Laurent Lavigne (Beauharnois—Salaberry):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

A task force study commissioned by the Quebec forum on employment reveals that unemployment has resulted in a \$32 billion loss for Canada. Moreover, the study shows that Canada's unemployment rate is higher than that of most industrialized countries.

Will the minister confirm the conclusion of the study, to the effect that the recent lowering of the unemployment rate is primarily due to a reduction in the number of people looking for work, and not to job-creating activities?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec):** Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt, and we have said so ourselves, that the real reason for the lower unemployment rate is a reduction in the number of job applications.

However, it must be pointed out that, for the most recent month, we created 48,000 jobs, and a total of 114,000 over the last two months, which is almost a record for the last five or six years. Consequently, the government is very proud of its performance. However, the hon. member is absolutely right regarding the enormous cost of unemployment.

• (1440)

In fact, this is one of the reasons why, unlike the Reform Party, we believe that, to lower the deficit, we must not only make cuts, but also stimulate employment. This is the best approach to a more reasonable deficit and a more adequate financial situation.

**Mr. Laurent Lavigne (Beauharnois—Salaberry):** Mr. Speaker, when does the minister intend to put forward a true job-creating strategy? Does he realize that, by not lowering UI contributions to \$3 now, he delays for one year the 40,000 jobs which he planned to create in 1995 with this budget measure?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec):** Mr. Speaker, I should point out, and this is why our approach is a well-balanced one, that the deficit must be lowered to stimulate employment and to foster economic stability in our country.

We would love to lower UI contributions now, but we need money to do that and we need the UI reform which will be proposed by my colleague, the Minister of Human Resources Development.

When you look at the budget initiatives regarding apprenticeship programs, if you co-operated with us, instead of stubbornly

### Oral Questions

objecting to the measures put forward by my colleague to help young people and to train older workers, we could create many more jobs.

\* \* \*

[English]

### TOBACCO PRODUCTS

**Ms. Shaughnessy Cohen (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

Young women are smoking at a much higher rate than are males of the same age. This is especially disturbing in light of the news that U.S. tobacco companies are adding some 600 chemicals to their cigarettes, 13 of which have been proven hazardous to human health.

What steps is the minister taking to ensure that Canadian cigarette manufacturers make the public aware of all such additives in their products?

**Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member raises an issue of concern to all Canadians.

All Canadians have a right to know what is included in the tobacco products they smoke, what goes into their lungs and what goes into the atmosphere around them.

I am determined to bring all pressures to bear on Canadian companies to also disclose the list of ingredients which are included in their tobacco products. If they do not then Canadians can take it for granted that the 599 ingredients listed in the U.S. are perhaps those that are included in Canadian cigarettes.

\* \* \*

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**Mr. Chuck Strahl (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

We are still trying to find out the true cost of the official languages program in Canada. For example, the commissioner states that the armed forces spent \$35 million on bilingualism last fiscal year. The department gives the cost as \$47 million but adds that the cost may actually be much higher.

Will the minister admit that his government does not know the real cost of bilingualism and will he establish an accurate system to determine the total cost?

**The Speaker:** I would submit that the debate today is partially on this question. However, I will permit the hon. minister to answer the question if he so desires.

**Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage):** Mr. Speaker, all the figures concerning expenditures by the Canadian government on official languages are contained in the report of the Commissioner of Official Languages. I could refer to the pages if need be but they are all there.