

CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

EMPLOYMENT OF WELFARE RECIPIENTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Speaker. On September 19 the Minister of National Health and Welfare spoke of a joint agreement with the Minister of Employment and Immigration to set aside 30 per cent of the jobs in the major component of the Canada Jobs Strategy Program for welfare recipients. Can the Minister explain then why, according to this memo that I have here, that is marked confidential, from Mr. John Edwards, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Employment and Immigration, why he, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, allowed the employment officials to undercut his target of 30 per cent by one-half in negotiations with the lead Province of Saskatchewan? Why did he allow himself to be undercut like that?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, there was no undercutting. There have been discussions by the Minister of Employment and Immigration as recently as last week when she was in Saskatchewan. This program with the provinces to have people who have been on welfare, who have been in that difficulty where they want to get out of welfare, where they needed some training or flexibility in the program—that has been put together with the federal Government and those provinces that have wanted to enter into those types of agreements. That was further enhanced by the Minister of Finance's Budget. I want to say to the Member that that program is going well and we continue not only to proceed with it but to enhance it.

EMPLOYMENT TARGET

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): On September 19 in the House of Commons why did the Minister of National Health and Welfare talk of a target of 30 per cent when in these negotiations, according to Mr. Edwards, in the Province of Saskatchewan the target now is set at between 14 and 18 per cent? Why did he tell the House it was 30 per cent when, indeed, the negotiations are about half of that?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, if he takes a look a little further in terms of those negotiations the target will be as high as possible. If you take a look at Nova Scotia other targets have been met there because of negotiations that have taken place. If he takes a look, for example, at the Throne Speech of the Saskatchewan Legislature just a few days ago, there was a reference to that issue. What we are saying is yes, we want to get people off welfare, but we will do it on the basis of where it is meaningful work rather than "workfare".

Oral Questions

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF CANADA TRUST

Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough): My question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. In Section 48 of the draft amendment of the Trust Companies Act the Minister proposed measures to prohibit transfers of ownership of financial institutions which the Minister considers to be against the public interest, effective November 29, 1985. Will the Minister state categorically, in view of the proposed takeover of Canada Trust by Imasco this morning, that she will block any attempt by a non-financial institution to gain majority control of Genstar, or is she prepared to see Canadian ownership policy for financial institutions decided by default?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I certainly am not prepared to see financial institution policy decided by default. This particular proposal came to us only very recently. There are many ramifications to it, and I am certainly taking a very close look at it, or I will when the documentation is prepared.

Mr. McCrossan: Supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCrossan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

• (1440)

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister is not ready to announce an ownership policy now, will she give an undertaking to the House that on our return from the Easter break she will make a statement to the House on government policy for financial institution ownerships before this takeover can be completed?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the draft Bill suggests that any potential takeovers after November 29, 1985, must meet with my approval. As soon as those decisions are ready, I will certainly make them public.

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[Translation]

YOUTH

HUNGER STRIKE BY SENATOR JACQUES HÉBERT—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): I would like to raise an issue with the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, following the extremely harsh attitude which the Secretary of State demonstrated a while ago concerning the events which are taking place at the other end of the corridor where a