

*Oral Questions*

What emergency measures will the government initiate to meet the needs of our own country's poor children and destitute families?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend again is ignoring some of the very key elements of the budget. She says that provisions that have been in place for two days simply are not working. I think that is a very unfair and totally unrealistic comment to make.

The proposals that my colleague from health and welfare and the Minister of Finance put together in this budget are specifically designed to deal with the problems of family violence. The proposals, as I said in my previous answer on corporate taxes, are designed to improve the capacity of those companies to increase jobs. All of these things together will provide a budget which is a very sound balance of both economic policy and social policy.

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**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

**Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence.

The budget had a direct impact on my riding with the closure of the supply depot putting over 200 people out of work. Three successive Ministers of National Defence have committed this government to build a new supply depot, not close one. As recently as last October a letter to me from the minister confirmed that the project was on course. Why has the government broken its promise?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the Department of National Defence has cut its budget forecast by nearly \$6 billion over the past four years. The strength of the Canadian Forces was cut by 11 per cent, thus proportionally reducing the need for supply depots.

[*English*]

**Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton):** It is nice to see that the minister talks about cutbacks, but they can build a museum of humour. This is no joke, Mr. Speaker.

The employees were told by this government not to worry, that a new supply depot would be built and they would have work. How does the minister explain to

Allan Meredith, Bernard Bourque, Tina Agnew, their families and all the other workers at the Moncton depot who woke up yesterday morning and learned that they no longer had jobs that it has broken its commitment to them?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that given the reduction in personnel we had to streamline depots. Therefore there will be two major depots in Canada, the Edmonton depot and the Montreal depot. By cutting down the establishment we had to reconsider the decision regarding Moncton.

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[*English*]

**THE BUDGET**

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology.

In the throne speech and in the so-called prosperity papers this government talked about the knowledge economy. It promised to double the number of scientists, engineers and mathematicians. It promised to cut the illiteracy rate by half, to quadruple worker training, to achieve a 90 per cent graduation rate from high schools, and to enhance science and technology.

My question to the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology is: Where in the budget is that prosperity agenda?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the prosperity agenda is very much in that budget. I mentioned in response to a previous question the various elements that are there to support the competitive position of Canadian companies. That will help Canadian companies provide jobs and opportunities for the younger people going through the education system.

The proposals that my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, has put forward on family violence and other problems of children in poverty are also designed to address this problem. A very high percentage of the dropout rate is because of family violence and drug and alcohol abuse. This will help those people who suffer from those problems to stay in the education system, get the education that is important for