

Oral Questions

referred to by the Hon. Member and outlining in clear terms how this matter will be dealt with. However, I repeat once again that all the commitments and obligations of the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion will be honoured. I can also assure the Hon. Member that the integrity of the Department will be clearly maintained.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, since this affects many programs such as the Native Economic Program and others, I want to know from the Deputy Prime Minister whether or not he thinks there might have been a breach of the Financial Administration Act in this case. I quote part of Section 25(1): "No contract or other arrangement providing for the payment shall be entered into with respect to any program unless there is a sufficient unencumbered balance available out of the appropriation". I also have the same reference in the Treasury Board guidelines on financial administration. Does the Deputy Prime Minister not think this might be a possible breach of the Financial Administration Act and also of the guidelines of the Treasury Board?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has just chastised the Minister and me for making a statement without ascertaining all the facts. He is now asking me to comment on something—

Mr. Nystrom: A breach of the Act.

Mr. Mazankowski: —or to express an opinion on something—

Mr. Broadbent: He might have read it yesterday.

Mr. Mazankowski: —and the Hon. Member is basing the question on leaked documents—and he has a rather reliable source of leaked documents.

Mr. Broadbent: Very reliable.

Mr. Mazankowski: Reliable as far as inconsistency, in terms of providing information which is sometimes a little less than accurate.

Mr. Nystrom: The Minister confirmed it.

Mr. Mazankowski: As was indicated, this matter is being looked into. I know there have been consultations and discussions with the President of the Treasury Board. I am not in a position to associate myself with the suggestion made by the Hon. Member.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT REDUCTION—JOB CREATION FOR YOUTH AND ELDERLY

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. All of us in this House are surely encouraged by the way unemployment has been reduced to 9.1 per cent, but all of us are aware of the need for still greater reduction. What economic initiatives can the Government take to reduce the unemployment rate lower still, especially among two age groups who find it difficult to be hired, those under age 25 and those over age 45?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my hon. friend for his question, which is an important one. I am glad he asked the question today, of course, because the unemployment rate, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is down from 9.3 per cent to 9.1 per cent and our youth are participating in the over-all decrease in unemployment. There have been 840,000 jobs created in all since the Government was elected.

Turning from the macro side of the answer to specific programs for youth, the tax reform proposals which will be introduced in June will clearly help entrepreneurship by lowering rates. That, of course, will have an immediate effect on young people as well as on all sectors of society. There is also the publication, the "Hot 100", which has all of these programs in it.

The Ministry of Youth has compiled some figures. We have a \$10 million youth entrepreneurship program with the YMCA. We have 25 per cent of the innovation program set aside for youth. Finally, approximately one half of the Canadian Job Strategy is allocated to youth, and that is \$720 million.

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THE CONSTITUTION

1987 CONSTITUTION ACCORD—LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and concerns the lack of balance in wording in the Constitutional Accord of 1987. On the one hand we find the role of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of Quebec is to conserve and promote the distinct identity of Quebec, and we agree with that. On the other hand we find the role of the Parliament of Canada, and all the provincial Legislatures, is restricted to preserving the fundamental characteristics of Canada, that is, the linguistic duality, of official languages groups both in Quebec and outside Quebec.

I asked the Government yesterday to tell me why the different wording. I asked the Minister of Justice why the Parliament and the Government of Canada are not obligated