

World War I. It is an established fact that Government can wait five years and a bit longer.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his allotted time has expired.

Some Hon. Members: Let him continue.

Mr. Speaker: He may continue.

Mr. Knowles: I just want to make the point that the present Government was elected on February 18, 1980, and was gazetted on March 10, 1980. That means, therefore, that it has agreed that Parliament is dissolved on March 10, 1985, and it could set the election two months later, which would make it in May, 1985.

I am not trying to predict the election date. I am just asking the newspapers and those who look at this matter to understand what is the rule. The only other point I would like to make is that perhaps you, Mr. Speaker, would like to predict what will be the date of the next election. Or I wonder if you will guess it.

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PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

EXPENDITURE ON WEATHER PROTECTION AT SPEAKERS' ENTRANCES

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous and unbelievable that the Government has the audacity to spend \$275,000 flagrantly to build overhangs which will protect the Speakers of both Chambers from the Canadian weather, while at the same time it allows millions of unemployed and poor Canadians to face high costs, zero job availability and creation—are you listening, John—and the impending harsh reality that the present is bleak, and the future, if under the selfish Liberal Government, holds no hope for improvement.

On behalf of the poor and the unemployed of the country I condemn this irresponsible, insulting Government for its foolish extravagance, when this money could be well used in many ways to assist those who cannot afford food or basic daily essentials. Certainly most cannot afford to build \$275,000 porches onto their shelters. Quite bluntly, the Government's priorities are in the wrong order and are disgusting, repulsive, and blatantly insulting to all Canadians.

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● (1410)

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Denis Ethier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) announced the date for the presentation of his Budget, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney), the temporary member for Central Nova, immediately cried foul.

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He went so far as to call it a cheap shot on the part of the Government to introduce a budget when the Leader of the Opposition was planning to be in Europe.

We all know the grandstanding of the Hon. Member for Central Nova. He would cancel his trip to Europe because, for him, the Budget and the economy of this country were his main concern, and discussing the Budget and the economy should be a top priority. Well, the Budget was in fact presented on Wednesday, February 15, and the Leader of the Opposition has not been seen in the House since. Would it be fair to assume that he is changing his priorities?

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, Canada's fledgling computer software industry is being threatened with extinction, and two recent events have shown that the Cabinet lacks even a basic understanding of the situation.

One of these events is actually a non-event, arising from last week's Budget. It was a non-event because the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) failed to change the income tax definition in order to extend research and development benefits to the development of computer software, this despite a discussion paper and a task force that flowed from the previous Budget.

The other event of importance is the proposal currently before the Japanese Government that would require the compulsory licensing of computer software ideas from outside Japan to any Japanese company. Such a measure could decimate Canada's chances of marketing a universe of unique products, not only in Japan but anywhere in the world. Telidon is a prime example of the kind of Canadian idea that could be lost by this legislation.

When my colleague from Cariboo-Chilcotin raised this matter in the House a few days ago, the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Johnston) appeared not to know anything about it, even though numerous articles have appeared in the popular press, including *Business Week*, *The Economist*, and *The New York Times*. High-level delegations from other countries, including the United States, have visited Japan to make representations over this serious problem, but not a word from our Government. I know—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

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EMPLOYMENT

LACK OF PROSPECTS FOR STUDENTS

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, recently a book entitled "*Jobs Canada*", published by a non-profit group