

*Oral Questions*

a shameful public relations exercise by the Minister of State for Youth and the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Here is my question to the Prime Minister. How can he describe as a new initiative the revival of the Department of Employment and Immigration youth secretariat which was mothballed after he took office? Where is his new initiative?

[English]

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the Prime Minister has assigned the Minister of State for Youth to assist with job creation, employment and training programs in my Department.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nunziata:** Big sister Flora!

**Miss MacDonald:** Indeed, this is where the Government places its priority. I can also assure Hon. Members that the Minister of State for Youth will be doing much more in the Department of Employment and Immigration than the questioner did in the Government which preceded this one. I have looked, and I know what his mandate was. I can tell Hon. Members that the Minister of State for Youth will be doing much more than that individual did.

[Translation]

## REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** That is nonsense, Mr. Speaker, and she knows it! She knows that the Challenge '86 program—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Question, please!

**Mr. Lapierre:** Mr. Speaker, you too know it is nonsense. The Challenge '86 program which becomes the responsibility of the Minister of State for Youth has ended. Applications are no longer accepted, so just what is her responsibility? Where is the new program promised by the Prime Minister? If he has the nerve, let him stand up and tell us now in front of all Canadians.

[English]

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the Hon. Member said back in 1984 when he was Minister of State for Youth, that:

—existing make-work schemes, such as the \$16 million Katimavik program, might have to be redrawn—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Miss MacDonald:**

—and simplified so that participants receive actual job training “instead of just beautiful human experiences”—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some Hon. Members:** More, more!

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PROGRAMS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In her press conference this morning the Minister of Employment and Immigration probably reached new depths of cynicism.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The press conference was hyped at everyone in the House, and everyone in the country expected a new program. All we got were musical chairs, no new program and no new funds.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** How about a question?

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** There were no new programs with respect to the crisis affecting youth. Will the Prime Minister fulfill the undertaking he gave to the House and the country that he and his Government would announce new programs for our young people before the end of this fiscal year? Is that going to be lived up to?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Ms. Copps:** Gutless!

**Mr. Gauthier:** How about having some guts over there?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Look whose talking.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Miss MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, at the present time the Government is spending \$732 million on programs devoted to youth employment and training. This year that will involve some 218,000 young people across the country. These are young people who really need help, young people who have dropped out of high school, and young people who are disadvantaged. At the time when youth unemployment was running much higher than it is now, the previous Government did not put anywhere near that amount of money into such programs.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Oh yes, we did. You're wrong about that.

● (1420)

## SENATOR'S HUNGER STRIKE

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Prime Minister would rise to