

Canadians generally, that more permanent jobs have been created during this Government's first full year in office than the Liberals and NDP ever thought possible. In fact the gloomsters and doomsters and the know-it-alls in the Opposition were predicting that jobs would be lost under our Government. Well, once again they were wrong, and they will continue to be wrong when they refuse to believe in the ability of the private sector to create wealth and prosperity for working men and women across Canada. Canadian entrepreneurs and business people are among the best in the world, and when they have a Government which provides leadership they respond wholeheartedly. This Government will continue to give leadership and the private sector will continue to create even more jobs.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

FAMILY ALLOWANCES—FULL INDEXATION ADVOCATED

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Government wants to make a fresh start in 1986. Government Members want to regain the confidence and trust of the Canadian public. I appeal to the Government through you, Mr. Speaker. Why not start off by making children and families a top priority? Let Government Members show they really care by reindexing family allowances to the real cost of living. Show that they will fulfil their promises to protect universal social programs and help those in greatest need. Show that they really listen to social policy groups, all of whom strongly oppose the 3 per cent reduction in the indexation of family allowances. Show that they understood women's groups who said that an attack on family allowances is an attack on women and children.

Let them show that they heard the hurt of poverty groups who told them from life experience how important a fully indexed family allowance is to their survival. Respond to over 50,000 petitioners from all parts of Canada who ask the Government to rescind Bill C-70.

They promised to restore cuts to social programs as the economy improved. They promised social justice and compassion for those in need. Fulfil these promises. Rescind Bill C-70. Restore confidence in your Government by fully reindexing family allowances. Start the year right. Do it now!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

APARTHEID

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MOLLY BLACKBURN

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to lay special emphasis on the tragic death of Molly Blackburn, a South African militant against apartheid.

Oral Questions

Mrs. Blackburn died in a car accident in late December. She was the leader of a local section of the Black Sash group of women opposing apartheid and was an opposition party member on the Cape regional council.

Mrs. Blackburn was jailed several times for unauthorized entry into black ghettos, as she was white.

The struggles of Mrs. Blackburn underscore the importance of human rights, and more particularly the need to end the apartheid regime which denies basic human rights, based as it is on the political exclusion of the black majority, the racist operations of the police system, and the over-exploitation of male and female workers through the migrant work scheme. Molly Blackburn fought to put an end to it.

We shall remember her as a staunch defender of the rights of South African Blacks.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT DID NOT FOLLOW COMMITTEE'S ADVICE PERTAINING TO CLOSURE OF GULF REFINERY

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, who has made a number of decisions that are detrimental to Quebec.

In the case of the Gulf Refinery, why did the Minister not act on the advice of the Picard Advisory Committee set up by the Government to help the workers in east-end Montreal?

And why did he not consider the unanimous resolution in favour of opening the refinery, adopted by the Quebec National Assembly? Why did he ignore or reject the advice of these two committees and the advice of the members of the Quebec National Assembly?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Departmental Committee on the Economic Development of Montreal, I can inform the House that we expect to receive the first report of the Advisory Committee chaired by Mr. Picard by January 31. We shall, of course, be considering the committee's recommendations very carefully.

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON INTERESTS OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES VERSUS INTERESTS OF QUEBEC WORKERS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my supplementary to the responsible Minister.