May 21, 1987

Oral Questions

[English]

I think it should be noted that I was in Oshawa when General Motors put \$2 billion of foreign investment in Oshawa. I have been to Windsor, the other area held by the NDP, a tremendous area of prosperity and the lowest unemployment in Canada, and largely because of foreign investment. What we are getting now is the privileged and selfish view of the NDP that foreign investment is good for them but bad for Bathurst and Kelowna and other areas across Canada. You cannot have it both ways.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Shields: Ask another one.

Mr. Langdon: The Prime Minister has shown his complete ignorance of Canada and of Windsor by saying it has the lowest unemployment rate of any place in Canada. Anyone who wants to check will find that is simply not the case.

REPORTED OPPOSITION BY PROVINCES TO FREEDOM OF INVESTMENT BY UNITED STATES

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, the Governments of both Ontario and Quebec have now expressed opposition to freedom of investment by the U.S. Will the Prime Minister now state clearly that his Government completely rejects the U.S. demand for a completely free investment policy in this country?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend places in doubt the statement that there is the lowest unemployment rate in Canada in southern Ontario.

Some Hon. Members: In Windsor.

Mr. Mulroney: Windsor is in southern Ontario. My hon. friend is following his Leader who said in a statement of May 8, I believe to the CBC, that 94 per cent of the jobs are created in only one small area. He was referring to Toronto and southern Ontario. That statement is false as well. Some 46 per cent of the jobs created were in Ontario, 28 per cent in Quebec, 22 per cent in western Canada, and so on.

I hope my hon. friend will agree with me that the prosperity he knows full well exists in southern Ontario has been brought about in very substantial measure by foreign investment. The degree of prosperity and economic opportunity for our young people that exists in southern Ontario we want to see repeated elsewhere, from Newfoundland to British Columbia. Surely that is fairness for all Canadians.

TAX REFORM

SCHEDULED TABLING OF WHITE PAPER

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance to whom I gave notice. When he tables the White Paper on June 18, is he going to table only a White Paper, a proposal or, as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs said, a maxi-Budget? More precisely, will he be announcing tax changes which will take effect either immediately or before a formal budget speech?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for giving me notice of part of the question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gauthier: Give us only part of the answer.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): I will give him only part of the answer. It will be a White Paper. It will be a prime time White Paper.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER TAX AMENDMENTS WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON JUNE 18 OR AT A DATE PRECEDING OFFICIAL BUDGET

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, playing with words is all very well, but I would like to say to the Minister of Finance that lately, he has been using press releases to announce changes in the Canadian tax system. And I probably don't have them all! I would like to say to the Minister that this time, we on this side of the House will be very reluctant to accept tax reform without a Budget, in other words, tax reform by press release.

Once again, I would like to ask the Minister, and I don't want to play word games: On June 18, will there be any tax changes that will become effective immediately or on a date preceding an official budget speech?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to bring down a Budget. The Minister of Finance will present a bulky White Paper on tax reform, and I think it will be very important for Canadians.

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[English]

POLITICAL PARTIES

AMOCO CANADA OFFICIAL'S FUNDRAISING FOR PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION AND MINISTER

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I have here a copy of a letter from Mr.