

## PROVISION OF FUNDS

**Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Since the Deputy Minister says that funds were provided in the planning stage for this project—I quote, “for this project”—and since the national energy plan when it came out on October 28 did provide funds for this project, why should any thinking Canadian believe that a consortium that was formed the day after, on October 29, did not, in fact, have advance knowledge of what was in the budget itself?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member makes something of the fact that the House has been misled and seems to have some accusation in the back of his mind. I conceded this morning that the information given to the House in the first instance—I conceded that yesterday—was wrong. If the Hon. Member wants to say that the House has been misled, he can. He should also add that the House was given the information to make sure that that error was corrected, which I did.

## SIGNING OF CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT IN OCTOBER, 1980

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister brought up the issue of privileged access. On October 28 at 8 p.m. the Finance Minister stood in this House and announced at page 84 of the National Energy Program and at page 9 of his speech that there would be special funds to utilize Cape Breton coal. Part of that would be to turn coal into liquid fuels.

The very next day the former Minister of Energy signed the consortium agreement, with one of the partners being Petro-Canada.

Does the Prime Minister expect the House to believe that they had no advance knowledge of what would be in that budget? Is there a budget leak? Was there a budget leak, or was there not?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is talking about October 20 but he has not mentioned the year. I imagine he is talking about 1980.

**Mr. Hawkes:** 1980.

**Mr. Trudeau:** If he is now complaining about a budget leak which took place in 1980 and asking me about it, I would say I have no recollection. But they would be pretty dumb ninnyes over there if they had not noticed that there was a budget leak until three years after.

## BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT IN OCTOBER, 1980

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister will know that in the month of October, 1980, seven of the nine members of the Board of Directors of Petro-Canada were appointed by Mr. Gillespie and were still serving. They included Mickey Cohen and Ian Stewart.

## Oral Questions

I ask the Prime Minister again, is it reasonable to assume that on October 29, 1980 a consortium could reach an agreement to take advantage of a \$1 million fund which the then Minister of Finance announced to this House the preceding evening after eight o'clock saying that the money would be available? Does that not stretch the concept of privileged access just a little bit?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, it obviously has not struck any Member of the Opposition or any member in the media or anybody in the country for some years. There is probably some explanation that I do not know, but it cannot be only the dumbness of the people over there. It must be that in some way the funds were available under a pre-established program. As a matter of fact we know that this program goes back to 1977. The funds were there since 1977. I do not see what inference can be made as to a leak when the project was discussed or talked about some three—some years after the fund had been established.

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[Translation]

## EMPLOYMENT

## AMOUNT OF FEDERAL AND QUEBEC BUDGETS FOR JOB CREATION

**Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière):** Madam Speaker, I would like to change the subject and talk about job creation, which might be more interesting for Canadians, especially for students. My question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration and concerns the student job creation program called Young Canada Works. First of all, could the Minister inform the House today how much has been set aside in this year's budget for student job creation, and second, how much will be spent by the Province of Quebec?

Furthermore, we have heard that March 4 was to be the cut off date. Could the Minister inform the House whether there will be an extension for submitting Young Canada Works projects?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that the Minister of Finance, who has a keen interest in the well-being of Canada's youth, has announced that he has earmarked \$170 million for the Summer Canada program.

[English]

I just want to add that that major new allocation of funds for students in this country will allow us to employ upwards of 70,000 young people, divided between 10,000 going to special internship programs in the federal Government, the private sector and the non-profit sector, another 13,000 to go into work in internships with the Department of National Defence