

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Monique Landry (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question, and I am aware of his interest in a matter that is so important to the minority communities in his region.

Of course, as I said earlier to his colleague, this government recognizes the importance of education for minority communities. We have already done a great deal in this respect, and I am thinking of one example where we financed an initial envelope with the Government of Ontario, which made it possible to proceed with the *Cité collégiale* here in the Ottawa area. I can assure him that this particular issue is one of my priorities.

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State referred to Ottawa's *Cité collégiale*. There are rumours that funds earmarked for a francophone college in Northern Ontario were diverted to the *Cité collégiale* in Ottawa, which is crowded with students from northern Ontario.

Could the minister deny this rumour and confirm to the House and to francophones in northern Ontario that a decision will be made about our college before dealing with the problems of the Ottawa *Cité collégiale*?

**Hon. Monique Landry (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member must realize that establishing colleges is in provincial jurisdiction. In fact, Ontario now has a new Minister of Education who I hope to meet very shortly, so that we can decide what to do about Ontario's colleges. I am confident that with the investments made so far, we can proceed to meet our commitments in this respect, but with the Government of Ontario. I would urge the hon. member to put some pressure on his colleagues at Queen's Park as well.

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[English]

#### PRIME MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, recently there has been a surge in patronage appointments and a lot more are coming. There are 28 judges, 11 senators, and we understand from the Privy Council Office that a number of appointments are going to be announced tomorrow, I guess in the hope that nobody is going to notice.

My question for the Deputy Prime Minister is this. Would he not table those appointments today? Is it the intention of the government to break the Liberal record of 1984 of 229 patronage appointments in one month in order to prevent the next prime minister from having to say "I had no choice"?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Is the hon. member worried about his application, or has he not yet got it in?

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, with that weird answer I suppose I am able to go on.

In his role as the finance minister the hon. member said that funding will be increased for the highly successful industrial research assistance program. My question to him is why did he not keep that promise; why did he leave the IRAP funding where it was before and where it has been for the last two years, without an additional penny?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister for Science and Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** I think my hon. friend is going to regret that he asked that question. Here is what has happened.

• (1500 )

**An hon. member:** Today they have to regret every question they ask.

**Mr. Hockin:** In the estimates tabled by my colleague this morning, there is an increase of over \$14 million for science and technology.

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#### SEXUAL OFFENDERS

**Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, *The Globe and Mail* reported on Tuesday that the Solicitor General had cut funding in Ontario for programs that treat sexual offenders. I understand that a reallocation of funds will occur in the next few months.

I and many Canadians are concerned about cuts to these programs. I ask the Solicitor General if he will assure Canadians that treatment programs for sexual offenders will continue to be a high priority for his department and will not be subject to funding cuts.