

Oral Questions

These people feel that they are being denied managerial positions when they feel they are more qualified than others who are appointed and who happen to be Caucasians.

[Translation]

If it is true that the department so discriminates by disregarding the merit principle and give promotions to less qualified employees, the health of Canadians is in jeopardy.

On Tuesday, November 19, the President of the Treasury Board stated that the government will not tolerate racial harassment within the civil service. Yet I have not seen the government take any measures to ensure fair treatment for these employees.

[English]

An impartial agency should undertake a substantive investigation that will look into these allegations and offer recommendations to resolve this issue at Health and Welfare Canada.

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WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Madam Speaker, Sunday, December 1 is World AIDS Day and I want to reflect on Canada's role in fighting this deadly disease.

The World Health Organization estimates that up to 10 million people are already infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and estimates that the figure will sky-rocket to 40 million by the year 2000. In Canada alone over 3,000 people have already died from AIDS.

The most tragic thing about AIDS is that it is preventable. We know exactly how HIV is spread and how it can be stopped. With education we have an excellent chance of saving millions of lives from being ravaged by HIV.

Canada has and must continue to take a leading role in fighting AIDS by maintaining both a strong commitment to international development and by funding AIDS research and education here in Canada. Many developing countries are helpless in fighting AIDS and Canada has the ability to empower them to help themselves.

Too often causes are acknowledged by politicians only once a year on days set aside to mark them. AIDS cannot

be fought once a year. It must remain on the political agenda at all times or we risk losing the fight. Canada must do more.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Yesterday a Gallup poll confirmed that for 90 per cent of Canadians the recession is not yet over. Today we know why. Today Statistics Canada has reported that the economy actually slowed in the third quarter. It shrank in August, it shrank again in September.

I ask the minister: How much more evidence does he need that his Conservative government's policies are simply not working? Why can he not create policies that bring sustained economic growth and more jobs and not continue with policies that lead to economic stagnation and add more and more people to the already too long welfare lines in this country?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the hon. member is wrong when he says that growth was negative or slowed in the third quarter. There was positive growth in the third quarter by .9 per cent, certainly weaker than we would have liked to have seen it, but that comes on the heels of a very strong second quarter.

I remind the hon. member that the annualized figures for the second quarter were a 4.9 per cent rate of growth. They have been adjusted upward to 5.7 per cent. We see some other promising signals on the horizon. The level of housing starts in October was 202,000. There was a net of 108,000 new full-time jobs that were created during the period of September and October. The residential demand is increasing. Corporate profits in this quarter are up by about 15 per cent on an annualized basis. Those are the kinds of things that will ultimately be translated into investment and job creation opportunities.