

*Oral Questions*

the Centre de recherche optique planned for the Quebec City area?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer my hon. colleague but first of all, I wish to thank him for the cordial words he directed to our government and my colleague, the Minister of Finance, last Thursday evening following our policy statement. It was much appreciated. I can inform the Hon. Member that the Centre Maurice-Lamontagne will proceed as planned. As Hon. Members must have noticed upon reading the documentation tabled last Thursday, there is no indication of any cuts in that area, and the same applies to the Centre de recherche optique at Quebec City.

INQUIRY CONCERNING POSSIBLE LOSS OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY  
JOBS

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary concerning the research centres planned for the area represented by the President of the Treasury Board. Could the Minister inform the House how many jobs related to those research centres will be lost as a result of these projects being abandoned or postponed?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, in the case of all research centres that were financed by the Laprade Fund, with which Hon. Members are familiar, certain projects which we felt did not have the same high priority as others have been either abandoned altogether or postponed.

**Mr. Garneau:** At a loss of how many jobs?

**Mr. de Cotret:** Mr. Speaker, I may inform my hon. friend that despite the fact that the Government represented by his Party during the last session spent more than \$130 million, central Quebec is not better off than other regions.

The promise that the Laprade Fund would create permanent jobs, Mr. Speaker, is a promise which, quite frankly, was not kept.

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[English]

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC STATEMENT—EFFECT ON  
EMPLOYMENT—REPORTER'S INTERVIEW WITH DEPARTMENTAL  
OFFICIAL

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. On Friday last, after the Government announced its disastrous economic policy which it is going to—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** It is typical for Conservatives to laugh about increasing unemployment, a situation which we on this side of the House take seriously.

After the Minister announced his economic policy on Thursday night, he failed to indicate the precise effect that such a policy would have, according to analyses which were done by officials of his Department, on employment in the coming fiscal year. The Minister acknowledged last Friday that there was such a study, but refused to give that study to Members of the House and, more important, to the people of Canada.

My question concerns a news story which appeared the following day in *The Citizen* of Ottawa. In that story the reporter referred to an official from the Minister's Department, with the clear implication that the official gave to the reporter the information that the Minister denied to Members of the House of Commons. I would ask the Minister did any official from his Department give the information to the reporter which we requested, and will he tell us if that was done on the weekend?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the official who gave out the information. The Hon. Member can read the papers as well as I can. Clearly, someone spoke to a reporter and gave some information. However, I would like to underline the fact that the information that was in *The Citizen* report is not significant information when taken into the over-all context of the broad impact of the economic statement, which is clearly positive. The chief spokesman for small business, John Bulloch, has said that—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. With great respect to the Minister, we are now in the second week of this Parliament and the questions are getting longer, and the answers are getting longer. Therefore, I will assert my authority to bring Question Period back to where I believe it should be.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I will keep my supplementary question short. The Minister has said that in his view the assessment which was done by his Department would not produce significant results. Would he now allow the people of Canada to decide whether the document which he wants to keep secret is, or is not, significant? The Minister preached open government when he was on this side. Why does he not practise it when he has responsibility?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, we are very open to these things.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** We have just embarked upon the largest consultative process that any Government has embarked on in Canadian history.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!