

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member would not want the implications of his question to be interpreted as he hints. The payments are made to the company of which Mr. Bradbury is, I believe, chairman or one of the senior partners. He functions as chairman and as an adviser to me in the area of saltfish marketing. I do not know what the other members of his family have to do with the hon. member's question.

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● (1142)

[Translation]

FINANCE

QUEBEC SALES TAX—REQUEST GOVERNMENT FIND ACCOMMODATION WITHOUT REJECTING SELECTIVE REDUCTION PRINCIPLE

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

I think there is a dilemma in addition to the question of the sales tax. I believe the minister knows that the National Assembly fought for a principle, that of selective sales tax cuts. So, can the minister say clearly that he is willing to come to an arrangement with the province of Quebec with regard to the reimbursement of funds, without rejecting the principle of selective sales tax cuts so that Quebec can use those funds according to the formula agreed upon by the minister and the Quebec government, without rejecting the principle of the selective cuts?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. I should like to repeat once again that the Quebec government can do what they want in their field of jurisdiction. They can cut the sales tax for 12 months; if they want to cut it for 20 months or three years, that is their business. As it is impossible to reach an agreement with them that can fit in with the national plan, I have decided, in order not to penalize Quebecers, to reduce the income tax of Quebec citizens. If Mr. Parizeau needs more money from his taxpayers because he has spent too much by cancelling the sales tax, then he can increase his income tax. I cannot prevent him from doing so. But I do not see why I should collect the taxes Mr. Parizeau needs.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance understands my question quite well and his stubbornness concerns me. Can he say yes or no whether the Quebec government can rely on the federal generosity to meet its needs and cope with the Quebec facts? I would ask the minister not to beat around the bush. Is he willing to let Quebec use its millions without any cost to the federal treasury for the purposes already

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suggested and unanimously agreed to by the National Assembly?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, if the National Assembly think that the proposed selective tax cut—

Mr. La Salle: Yes or no, period!

Mr. Chrétien: —is good for Quebec all they need do is vote for it. I am doing for Quebec what I have been doing for Ontario and New Brunswick. I am reducing the income tax for the Quebec taxpayers, the federal tax. If Mr. Parizeau needs funds, he should levy his own taxes. I am not standing in his way. It is his jurisdiction. The money allotted to Quebec will be reimbursed to Quebecers as soon as the opposition will vote with us on the bill now under consideration.

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[English]

EMPLOYMENT

TRAINING OF YOUNG CANADIANS FOR SKILLED JOBS

Mr. F. A. Philbrook (Halton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As reported recently by Mr. J. T. Kennedy, the incoming president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Canada is faced with a serious shortage of skilled labour, especially in the metalworking trades, whereas fewer European tradesmen are coming to Canada.

Is the minister working with the provinces to provide more opportunities and incentives for young Canadians to train and apprentice as skilled craftsmen and provide more employment in a strong, growing manufacturing sector?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the field of education is within provincial jurisdiction, we work in very close co-operation with all of them under the Adult Occupational Training Act and our apprenticeship programs, with our emphasis being on the job-creation aspect. I am happy to say that the provinces are co-operating, particularly under the Adult Occupational Training Act.

We are entering into a new series of three-year agreements with the provinces. We are shifting our emphasis from simply the training aspect, where training seems to be needed, to training individuals for jobs which in fact will be available. The result of a recent study conducted in southern Ontario indicates that 75 per cent of the highly skilled jobs in the manufacturing industry were filled as a result of immigration rather than training of Canadians. I think that is an emphasis we have to change.