

regarding changes in unemployment insurance. But then the Minister goes outside of the House of Commons and says to the press, "no, I think it's the responsibility of the Minister of Finance". He in turn says he thinks it is the responsibility of the Minister of Employment and Immigration. So much for the compassion and concern echoed during the federal election campaign regarding poor Canadians.

I say the Government of Brian Mulroney will come to its day of reckoning during the next federal election. It will be voted out of office because it is not coming forward with policies which will decrease unemployment in Canada. If anything, the Government has added substantially to the unemployment rolls in this country, whether it be because of the vicious cuts in the CBC, which the Parliamentary Secretary has aided and abetted, or whether it be the refusal to give money to Atlantic Canadians, or come clean regarding a gas tax. Shame on the Government.

[Translation]

**Mr. Claude Lanthier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the statement to the effect that 167,000 more Canadians are now unemployed as compared to the previous month is based on a comparison between non-seasonally adjusted figures of January 1985 and those for December 1984. As a rule, employment figures are inflated in December as a result of temporary jobs created to meet rising consumer demand during the Christmas season.

Adjusted figures taking such seasonal factors into account do reveal, unfortunately, that the number of unemployed increased from December 1984 to January 1985, but by only 44,000 or roughly 25 per cent of the alleged increase.

An overview of statistics on gainfully employed manpower shows that 84,000 permanent jobs have been created since this Government was elected.

In early November, the Government unveiled a new strategy, a program of economic recovery. The main thrust of that strategy was: (a) to tidy up public finance; (b) to redefine the role of Government which is to create a better environment for growth and job creation; (c) to enact policies conducive to increased investment, stimulated innovation and enhanced international competitiveness, and to the development of a climate suitable for the establishment and growth of new businesses; (d) to implement such changes in a way that will be fair, open and in line with the basic spirit of compassion, tolerance and justice inherent to our Canadian society.

Over the last three months, that strategy has been followed by the Government. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) met with his counterparts in Montreal in January. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) met on February 14 and 15 with his counterparts in Regina. And ten days or so ago, the National Conference on the Economy was held. All that was aimed at giving Canadians an opportunity to put forward the ideas they have on economic policy and which they would like in fact to be reflected in the budget. The Government will introduce a

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budget only after open and complete discussion and consultation.

In the meantime, the Government has announced a number of initiatives for job creation. Firstly, there was "Challenge '85", an array of summer employment programs with a total funding of some \$205 million, which stresses the private sector's role in providing summer employment related to the field of studies of the applicants. Secondly, the Prime Minister announced in Regina that, in addition to the \$1.2 billion already announced for employment and manpower training programs, the Government will add: an extra \$125 million to facilitate the integration of young people and women in the labour market; an extra \$350 million to improve employment opportunities for the chronically unemployed, the greater part of these funds being earmarked for joint programs with the Provinces; an extra \$80 million to allow workers, especially those affected by technological changes, to acquire the needed skills; an extra \$40 million to create opportunities for workers in regressing communities; \$100 million to promote innovation, pilot projects and new experiments.

Consultation with the Provinces and the private sector over the next few weeks will ensure an immediate and concerted implementation of the new 1985-86 initiatives.

● (1810)

#### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION—BUDGETARY CUTBACKS—REQUEST FOR DETAILS. (B) NATURE OF CONSULTATIONS

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign, the Progressive Conservative Party promised to consult with the cultural community on its cultural policy. The Government has now chosen to ignore this promise as it has ignored so many others. Instead of consulting, the Government has mercilessly and abruptly changed its cultural policy. It has cut \$85 million from the CBC budget, \$10 million for equipment and \$75 million for programming.

The Government should not say the cutbacks will be at the discretion of CBC management, because that is just not possible. We hear rumours of funds being wasted by the CBC, but let us not exaggerate. The CBC is responsible for two television networks, the French and the English network, AM and FM radio in both official languages, the Northern Service, including native languages, and the International Service. It is a task vaster and more complex than that of other national services like the British Broadcasting Corporation.

As far as consultation goes, the Minister has failed utterly. He recently started to meet with groups from the arts community, but only after there had been a violent reaction to his new policy. And even then, he is explaining or defending his budgetary cutbacks instead of providing for genuine consultation.