

*Oral Questions*

the industries identified in the report, the proof that Quebec's separation would be an element—

**Mr. Jean-Marc Jacob (Charlesbourg, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, again, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs did not answer the question at all. I did not talk about defence supplies but about defence equipment. He did not say anything about that.

Here is my supplementary: As the secret document prepared in March refers to defence contracts in the next three months, how does the minister explain that they have not yet confirmed the benefits from the equipment acquisition contracts? The government is probably saving this lever to put pressure on some Quebec businesses.

**Hon. Marcel Massé (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Public Service Renewal, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, again, we gave very clear answers to those questions. Quebec receives a proportion of capital defence spending that is much higher than its percentage of the population.

Again, page after page of the document in question shows that the separation they want would hurt Quebec employees as well as investments and the various industries in Quebec. Again, the document he is quoting from is the best proof that, on October 30, Quebecers will vote No to separation to preserve the economic benefits from their association with Canada.

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[English]

### VIETNAM

**Mr. Ted McWhinney (Vancouver Quadra, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Vietnamese government has now scheduled a retrial of nine religious, academic and cultural leaders in Vietnam who were previously condemned to prison. Will the minister convey to the Vietnamese government that a favourable result of this judicial review will have a positive influence on relations between Canada and Vietnam?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out the hon. member's important contribution to the defence of rights and freedoms. I think that his question is a suggestion to the government, and we accept it as such. I hope that Vietnamese authorities will take it into account in a positive way.

• (1455)

[English]

### CANADA PENSION PLAN

**Mrs. Jan Brown (Calgary Southeast, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, in a speech in 1991 the Minister for Human Resources Development worried about the concerns and anxieties of Canadians over future levels of funding for the Canada pension plan. In the past four years those concerns have not gone away, they have only gotten worse. The minister has had two years to address these concerns, but he has failed to do so.

Will the minister end the speculation and uncertainty for Canadian seniors, deliver on his promise to reform the Canada pension plan and announce here and now a specific date for reforms of the Canada pension plan?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member has been waiting since 1991, she might want to wait a few days longer.

I understand the concern of the hon. member. We all share a very deep interest in ensuring that Canadians in retirement have effective and sustainable pension programs. The government is very committed to it because it authored the major old age pension and income security programs. That is why in the last budget we underlined once again our strong commitment to maintain and strengthen those programs and to enhance them.

To prepare ourselves for that, the Minister of Finance in working with my department is preparing a paper that will outline for Canadians the choices and options we will have to face in the Canada pension plan in order to ensure that we can sustain its financing over the next years to meet the very large growth in the number of Canadians that will be retiring. We are working on that as well as we can. When the paper is right and ready we will present it, certainly to the hon. member. We will also present it to every other Canadian.

**Mrs. Brown (Calgary Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the minister that the Reform Party is ready to go. Just watch for October 11 next week when we will be making our announcement.

Two weeks ago the Minister of Human Resources Development stated the Canada pension plan is not in a state of collapse. However, the chief actuary in the finance department last week wrote in a letter: "The Canada pension plan fund is expected to be exhausted by the year 2015".

My question is for the Minister of Finance. When it comes to the status of the Canada pension plan, who does he believe, the HRD minister or his chief actuary?