

office, they might have done very well in the field of foreign aid. I was just pointing out to the hon. member that just a few days ago his leader complained that I was too preoccupied with North-South questions and that I was not dealing enough with economic questions in Canada. That is all I wanted to point out. I am in agreement with the hon. member that we should do more, and I hope his point of view prevails over that of his leader when we come to deal with these questions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY AND LABOUR ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Earlier today he ignored the House of Commons and held a press conference to announce a special program rather than announcing it in the House. During that press conference the Minister of Labour indicated that none of the ministers could tell how the \$350 million involved would be allocated as between equipment, high-priced consultants and help to individuals. In the October 28 budget the Minister of Finance announced that half of that \$350 million would be spent in the social policy envelope. Could the minister assure the House that half of that \$350 million, \$175 million, will remain in the social policy envelope and provide help to individuals, or does he agree with the Minister of Labour that it could go for equipment and high-priced consultants?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Calgary West, who obviously was in attendance at the conference at which the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and I elaborated on the details of the program, was not listening to the description of the program if he thinks it is for high-priced consultants and so forth. The portion of the program which goes under economic development will be assigned as grants to companies to start new jobs in those communities in which there have been economic turndowns, lay-offs or plant closings. We think it is absolutely essential that we not simply maintain communities but that we help them grow and provide assistance so that they can develop and attract new industry. That is the purpose of half the program.

The purpose of the other half is to provide major assistance so that workers can develop new skills and new job opportunities can be developed.

That is the rough division of the program. The money will be allocated according to the discussions we have in those communities with organizations and committees which are established to inform us of the priorities those communities have for themselves in terms of their own assistance and their own labour.

Oral Questions

● (1440)

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, I take from that answer that we cannot have that assurance, that in fact we are going to turn over expenditures to appointed groups.

I should like to move on to another issue. Two of the programs announced this morning were, first, a portable wage subsidy program for people 45 years of age and over and, second, an early retirement program for people 54 years of age and over. May I ask the minister whether he can give an absolute assurance to the House that, when and if the constitution act of 1980 is passed, those two programs will not be declared illegal? Can he assure the House that there is nothing in those programs that will run counter to the constitution act of 1980?

Mr. Axworthy: There is absolutely nothing in those programs that will be illegal. When the constitution is passed, we will have the right of full mobility for all Canadians.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS FOR BERMUDA

Madam Speaker: At this point I should like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of the honourable John Swan, Minister of Home Affairs for Bermuda.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDUSTRY

McDONNELL DOUGLAS—CREATION OF JOBS FOR CANADIANS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I have a question which I should like to put to the Prime Minister. This morning, together with the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Employment and Immigration, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce announced a \$44 million or \$45 million expenditure over the course of the next three years for the creation of employment. Given the fact that we desperately need employment opportunities in Canada at the moment, and that is recognized by everyone, I wonder whether the Prime Minister might consider calling in McDonnell Douglas and informing them that since this government is spending \$4 billion of taxpayers' money, that company has an obligation to create in Canada jobs to employ not only the 1,000 workers who are going to be laid off now, but also jobs that will employ additional Canadian workers who could be and should be working as a result of this extensive expenditure.

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, the hon. gentleman's representations are, of course, taken very seriously by the government. It might be pointed out to the hon. gentleman that the offsets which were negotiated by the government in the purchase of the F-18 will total more than \$3.2 million by 1995. Of course, the government is