

The Budget—Hon. F. MacDonald
REVENUE FROM FOREIGN PERIODICALS

Question No. 509—Ms. McDonald:

1. In the last year, what was the total revenue received from American periodicals mailed in Canada?

2. Are such periodicals charged a lower rate than normal business mail and, if so, what (a) was the total subsidy received (b) share of the subsidy was paid by each department?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): The Canada Post Corporation informs me as follows:

1. The total revenue earned from second class foreign periodicals mailed in Canada was \$18.6 million in 1984/85. It is not known what proportion of this amount is from American publications.

2. No. These publications are currently charged a rate comparable to that of quantity third class commercial mailings.

[Translation]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from Thursday, February 27, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government; and the amendment of Mr. Johnston (p. 11006); and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Riis (p. 11009).

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to speak on the Government's record of job creation and growth, and to address those measures in the Budget that will support this employment growth. Eighteen months ago when this Government was elected, our mandate was very clear. It was to create jobs and we have certainly delivered on that promise.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Miss MacDonald: But it was also clear that we had to tackle the problems inherited from the previous administra-

tion: uncontrolled growth of the deficit, programs that failed to produce results, and employment programs that were only short-term, bandaid solutions.

[English]

We were given a mandate; we were called upon to restore fiscal responsibility, to release the creative spirit and entrepreneurship of Canadians and to create real employment opportunities. As the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) said the other day in this Budget speech, "cutting the deficit is not an end in itself. It is the means to an end. It is the means to achieving lower interest rates, higher growth and more jobs." We are reaching those goals.

In our first Budget of May of last year, we committed ourselves to reducing the deficit to \$33.8 billion for fiscal 1985-86. We will meet that target. This year, the deficit is projected to drop to \$29.8 billion. By the end of the decade, the deficit will have been reduced to \$22 billion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: The skeptics in the opposition parties said that we could not cut the deficit and produce jobs at one and the same time. Jobs are being created in record numbers and the deficit is coming down.

Since September 1984, 580,000 new jobs have been created. The unemployment rate has fallen below 10 per cent for the first time since 1982. It is important to note that fully 81 per cent of those new jobs are full-time jobs. During the term of the previous administration, only 18 per cent of the new jobs created were full time. What a difference; what a change.

In Canada, we now are creating jobs at twice the rate of the United States. We have created more jobs in the last years than all of the countries of western Europe combined. Across Canada, there is a renewed sense of direction and stability.

Between September 1984 and January 1986, employment has grown in every region of the country. Just look at the results: it has increased by 51,000 new jobs in British Columbia, by 90,000 new jobs in the prairie region, by 239,000 new jobs in Ontario, by 156,000 new jobs in Quebec and by 30,000 new jobs in Atlantic Canada. I would be the first to say that even though we have made progress, that progress is still not enough. While there has been substantial growth—

Mr. Rodriguez: Say it again.

Miss MacDonald: I am pleased to hear that members of the Opposition agree with that. While there has been substantial growth, it is not fully shared all across the country. Clearly more needs to be done in areas like Atlantic Canada and that is why the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) have introduced the Atlantic Enterprise Program, to stimulate private-sector job creation through major loan guarantees.

The steps that we have taken so far show that we are moving in the right direction. Since the Government assumed office, 73,000 more young people have been able to find jobs and 292,000 more women have been able to find jobs. The growth