

May 1985 survey on gainfully employed Canadians. It reveals that April and May this year were months during which Canada recorded more than modest gains—above average results are an encouraging trend in our fight against unemployment. Progress over those two months constitutes a historic and perhaps unprecedented achievement since the end of World War II.

The total number of jobs in Canada went up by 159,000 in April and May, and that—in seasonally adjusted figures—is the sharpest increase over two consecutive months ever recorded by Statistics Canada since it first began to collate such monthly figures in 1953. We now have 271,00 more Canadians at work than we had nine months earlier. At this rate, we might exceed 400,000 new jobs over a 12-month period, a mark surpassed only twice since the end of the 1940s.

Mr. Speaker, this upward trend can be seen everywhere, not only among a given segment of the population or in a specific region of the country. Unemployment rates declined among all major age groups, men and women alike, in seven out of ten provinces.

Mr. Speaker, this Government is rightfully proud of its notable progress at every level in our fight against unemployment. That has been the performance of the Government so far, and it is firmly committed to improve on its record.

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● (1110)

[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, once again it is Friday in the nation's capital and we come to the awarding of the "Patronage of the Week Award". This week the process has been difficult because of a number of last minute entries. The nominees?

Mr. Boudria: John McMillan.

Mr. Kaplan: John McMillan, the brother of the Minister of Tourism (Mr. McMillan), two weeks out of law school, has been named Canada's legal agent in Prince Edward Island. He has complained that he has not gotten much yet.

Mr. Boudria: Faith Good.

Mr. Kaplan: Mrs. Faith Good, the mother of the Chief of Staff of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie), has become Vice-Chairman of the Board of the St. John's Port Corporation.

Mr. Boudria: Jim Wood.

Mr. Kaplan: Jim Wood, a former Mountie, is now presiding over veterans' pensions.

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In the final analysis—

Mr. Boudria: The Crosbie brothers.

Mr. Kaplan:—it was no contest. The envelope, please?

The winners are the Crosbie boys. Rat pack T-shirts for the Crosbie boys will be available in the office of the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) during business hours of nine to five.

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THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Ted Schellenberg (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I was somewhat distressed earlier today because I thought we were not going to have the Patronage Award of the Week awarded as there was not one awarded last Friday. I thought that this might be the last SOW Award. I am encouraged, however, to see that once again the awarders of the Patronage Award of the Week have found some names, and have given a double award at that. Perhaps we can meet fire with fire, and give a double award as well.

Choosing the first name from our SOW barrel, the first SOW of the Week is Denis Ethier, the former Liberal Member of Parliament for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, who was appointed Chairman of the Livestock Feed Board by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), back when he had no option. I suggest that the Livestock Feed Board is a great place for a "SOW".

Now the tension mounts as we get to our second award winner of the day. I draw another name from our piggy barrel. My goodness, the second winner is a rat. The other "SOW" is the present Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria), the author of the black book on Tory patronage, the man who makes so much of his humble beginnings as a House of Commons busboy. He is also the man who got that job on the recommendation of his number one sponsor, the former Liberal MP for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, Denis Ethier. Obviously, when it comes to patronage, the rat pack knows that of which it squeaks.

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EMPLOYMENT

INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT LEVELS

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, here is more good news. This morning's employment statistics provide compelling proof that the pro-employment policies of the Government are working. In the month of May employment surged forward by another 70,000 jobs. When combined with the April increase of 89,000 jobs, that means that in the last two months the economy has created 159,000 jobs. This is the largest absolute increase in employment in any consecutive