

that jobs are being created at an unprecedented rate in the fourth quarter, which is traditionally a slow growth period. There were 1,500 companies polled across Canada. About 26 per cent said that they plan staff increases, and 13 per cent said that they plan to reduce staff. Job creation in the fourth quarter is the highest for any year in the 1980s.

Take construction, for example, which faces lay-offs at this time of the year. It is reported that 23 per cent will be seeking to increase their hirings.

This trend is concrete proof of our Government's economic policies which have seen the creation of 1,295,000 jobs, lower interest rates, price stability, low inflation, and an improved investment climate.

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● (1410)

PLANNED PARENTHOOD WEEK

NEED FOR EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, since this week is Planned Parenthood Week I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada for its excellent work in the field of healthy sexuality.

Planned Parenthood is calling upon government to move quickly to formulate and adopt a comprehensive reproductive health policy which provides sex education in schools and homes, access to birth control information and services, as well as counselling and research.

Canadians are incurring extremely high health care costs, both social and personal, because of the lack of information and services in the field of sexuality.

We urgently need a co-ordinated approach to provide education and counselling services. At present various Departments at all levels of government deal with only parts of this problem. This completely fails to provide adequate information or reproductive health services for Canadians.

In today's world, especially with the pressure of AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancies, such a policy is desperately required.

I urge the Government to develop a comprehensive reproductive health care policy immediately in consultation with the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada.

[Translation]

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POLITICAL PARTIES

GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES—POSITION OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Marc Ferland (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Leader of the Liberal Party for having circulated to the press a list of 69 initiatives our Government took between May 30 and September 9. However, he does not seem to agree with many of those initiatives.

Am I to understand he is against the \$110 million for cleaning up the St. Lawrence River; the \$515 million for the Quebec regional development; the \$25 million for the establishment of a geoscience research center in Quebec; the \$30 million for the upgrading of the airport in Montreal; the \$600 million Mr. Masse announced in Montreal for research and development of new energy sources and energy conservation?

Am I to understand that if the Liberal Leader were elected, he would tear up those agreements?

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[English]

SPORTS

OLYMPIC GAMES—BEN JOHNSON, 100 METRE WINNER

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ben Johnson for his remarkable and heroic achievement which has brought so much glory and honour to his adopted country of Canada.

More than glory and honour, I can report that benefits are already abounding. On Sunday I attended a rally in the Jane-Finch area of my riding called "Say No to Drugs". Of course Ben Johnson's flying start was much admired. There were hundreds of kids around the field showing, like Ben Johnson, that people can fly, or try to fly, without the benefit of drugs.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

WAGES OF EAST COAST NAVAL DOCKYARD WORKERS

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Mr. Speaker, I was shocked last week, and I am sure that some of my Nova Scotia colleagues share my concern, when we heard the Minister of State for the Treasury Board (Mr. Lewis) indicate that regional wage rates would continue to be paid with respect to members of the ship repair unit at CFB Halifax.

The reason for our concern is that we on the East and West Coasts are asked to share in other elements of the nation's economy, in particular high interest rates generated from the Province of Ontario. I was especially concerned that a Member