

● (1450)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member used the word "seriously", so let us take an unbiased look at the figures.

Since the new Government was sworn in, 580,000 new jobs have been created in Canada—

**An Hon. Member:** By others—

**Mr. Mulroney:** By others, he says. The Government of Canada, yes but . . . be it good news or—

**An Hon. Member:** It is good, but it is done by others—

**Mr. Mulroney:** —well, it is good, but it is not done by "others".

Well, now, I understand.

When it is good for Canadians, it is good. When it is good for young Canadians, it is very good. That is the philosophy of the Conservative Government.

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[English]

## THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED

### EMPLOYMENT EQUITY LEGISLATION

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. This morning he met briefly with some disabled Canadians from the Coalition Against the Employment Equity Bill. They also met for about half an hour with his assistant, Mr. Geoff Norquay, in the Prime Minister's Office. I met just recently with this group and they want to know whether or not the Prime Minister now agrees with their request that the Employment Equity Bill be changed to include a penalty for employers who fail to implement employment equity in the workplace?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this morning on my way to caucus I had an opportunity in the hall to meet with excellent representatives of the coalition who briefly explained their point of view to me. I have since had occasion to discuss it with the Minister, as well as with Geoff Norquay whom I asked to meet with the representatives of the coalition upstairs in the cabinet chamber. He is preparing a report for me, and when I leave the House I will meet with him.

### HIRING ON TERM BASIS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for the answer. The group also wanted to know if more disabled people will be hired on a permanent basis in the federal Public Service. As of today 76 per cent of disabled people who work in the Public Service are

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there on a term basis, and when there is a cut-back in spending they are often the first people laid off.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, from our first Throne Speech through our two Budgets there have been a number of measures specifically designed to assist the disabled. This is not enough. We recognize that these are people to whom we owe a great deal. The Government of Canada will continue to work very closely with them to see if we cannot meet some of their legitimate objectives.

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## INCOME TAX ACT

### COMMITTEE HEARINGS

**Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. Can he tell the House if simplification of the Income Tax Act is on the committee's agenda?

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee has broken itself into two panels. One panel has hearings commencing April 8 to delve into the Income Tax Act leading to recommendations on simplification of personal income tax and personal income tax forms.

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## YOUTH

### FUNDING OF EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. He has said that he cares about the close to half a million young Canadians who have not yet found employment. If that is the case, does he not think it proper to restore the funding levels of two years ago when over \$200 million extra and an additional 100,000 jobs were provided in our training institutions and direct employment programs?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, two years ago the funding directed to young people from the Department of Employment and Immigration was \$694.8 million. Even though the unemployment rate is much lower today, the amount now being contributed to training and employment programs for young people is \$732.2 million.

### AMOUNT OF FUNDING

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, when is the Minister going to hire a new accountant? The fact is that the figures for that year were \$950 million and 270,000 jobs. It seems to me what is wrong with the Minister and her Department is that they do not know what is going on.