

Oral Questions

statements and actions to be taken to put people back to work in those communities?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Indeed, Mr. Speaker, there is an onus on the Government to make sure, to begin with the employees affected, that if there is an error made that we err always on the side of fairness and generosity to the employees. I accept, as well, that there is an obligation on the Government of Canada to ensure that the tax measures proposed result in the attraction of durable jobs for the people of Cape Breton.

Cape Bretoners have had a difficult time, and eastern Nova Scotia has not had an easy time for as long as I can remember. It has never been easy. There is a special kind of problem there that has been recognized by Members on all sides of the House. I accept that we have a special obligation to do everything humanly possible to bring durable jobs to Cape Breton.

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. I wish to inform him of what the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources informed the union when she said on March 4:

No action will be taken on the future of AECL's heavy water operations in Cape Breton without a full and thorough review of the impact of a proposed decision.

There has been no consultation with the unions affected. I would ask the Prime Minister to order the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion to live up to their commitments to the people of Nova Scotia, and to the workers, by creating jobs now, not in 50 years' time. Will the Prime Minister live up to that commitment?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member I would like to assure him that there will be jobs for those in Cape Breton. As far as I am concerned, the number of jobs to which the Hon. Member referred is certainly attainable before there are any reductions with respect to the heavy water plants, as far as employment in those plants is concerned.

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THE BUDGET

EFFECT ON OIL COMPANIES AND PENSIONERS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In 1980 the Conservative Party promised tax breaks to the oil companies and, sure enough, in the Budget paper that was not published, it is indicated that in 1990 \$2.4 billion will be forgone to the oil companies, in one tax alone, the PGRT. In 1980 the Conserva-

tive Party proposed that it would not do anything with deindexation for pensioners, but in the Budget it eliminated that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The preamble is becoming longer than the question.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, why is there a double standard? Why is it fair to give the oil companies \$2.4 billion while taking the money away from the pensioners?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think what the Hon. Member misses is the range of measures that are taken in this Budget to do two things. One is to create jobs by identifying three particular areas in the economy which have the greatest impact on economic activity. The first is small business, the second is research and development, and the third is energy development. Those jobs will be created right across Canada. As I said before, jobs will be created in Vancouver-Kingsway as well as in Halifax. Those are the things we are trying to do. We are trying to get the unemployment rate down so that the children and grandchildren of those senior citizens will have jobs.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows that he is taking money from the pensioners and giving it to the oil companies. Will he take this cheque from the pensioners of Canada to give to his friends—

Mr. Speaker: Orders.

Some Hon. Members: Order. Order.

Mr. Waddell: Will he give them \$530 million? Will he take that right out of the pockets of the pensioners of Canada?

Some Hon. Members: Order. Throw him out.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of Justice was sent to Newfoundland and Atlantic Canada to sell the Budget, the most crippling economic blow ever dealt to the Atlantic area. The Minister of Justice knew that because he said, as reported in the *Evening Telegram* of May 25, 1985:

If it turns out that in any of the approaches taken in this budget there is any possibility of any damage to regionally deprived areas, then there will be changes made—

Does the Minister of Finance agree with that? Will he show some compassion? Will he live up to the commitment made by the Minister of Justice? If we can show him, as we can, that this will cripple the Atlantic area, will he make some changes?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have always indicated in the past that I am a very flexible individual. We have had a Budget which I think has been well received across the country. I am listening to people. We are