

*Oral Questions*

[English]

## TIMING OF GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, is the Secretary of State not aware that the Prime Minister said that there would be programs introduced for youth before the beginning of March and that the Minister of State for Youth said that, after studying the Senate committee report on youth and the New Democratic Party report on youth, there would be programs introduced by the Government in spite of his contradiction of that fact some days ago? Are we dealing with the promise of programs or mere propaganda?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That was three questions.

[Translation]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I will repeat what I just said, since the question is the same. We said that we were going to announce a new program for youth, but again, we will do so when we feel the time has come to announce the program.

## KATIMAVIK PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Secretary of State. I may remind him that the Special Senate Committee was unanimous in its recommendation for setting up "Youth", a national community service volunteer program, for all young Canadians between the ages of 17 and 24, a program very similar to Katimavik. I would like to ask the Minister, since this was a unanimous report, if he is now prepared to reconsider his decision,—a controversial one, I may add,—to terminate the very popular Katimavik program.

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I have said time and time again that reversing this decision is out of the question. However, I am glad you referred to the Senate Committee. The Committee's first recommendation is to create jobs and provide appropriate training, something the Minister of Employment and Immigration has been doing so well, and that is what you should keep in mind, and no matter what you say, the Government's priority is to create jobs, and this kind of question is not going to make us change our minds.

## SENATE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING RESTRICTIVE MEASURES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, the Senate Committee's first recommendation is as follows: that before implementing restrictive measures, the Government should examine their immediate and indirect impact—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. A question only!

**Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** —is that what led the Government to make those drastic cuts in the last Budget? Is that following the recommendations of the Senate Committee?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, does the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques mean that investing \$700 million in job creation is a restrictive measure? I find that hard to believe! We are investing money in job creation, and just because we have terminated a \$20 million program that was costing \$10,000 per young person, you are accusing us of taking restrictive measures. Measure for measure, I think I prefer those I am implementing to yours which have made hundreds of thousands of young people jobless in this country.

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[English]

## NATIONAL REVENUE

## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TAX CREDIT—AMOUNT OF WRITE-OFF

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue and concerns the Scientific Research Tax Credit. We learned last week that only 172 companies have been audited out of a total of 1,800 and that the Department has already written off some \$900 million. Why has the Government so quickly written off \$900 million, and what special measures is the Government taking to minimize the public rip-off and recover as much as possible?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, as a knowledgeable critic, the residue of this program has created tremendous problems. The Deputy Minister of National Revenue recently appeared before the relevant committee and gave a very good account of the current situation.

I can assure the Hon. Member and the House that our Department is not writing off any of these accounts for which there is a reasonable chance to protect the taxpayers' interests and all appropriate measures will be taken to make sure the taxpayers' interests are protected.

## GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. I want to know why the Government approved some \$3 billion in SRTC applications after October 10, 1984, when it knew that many of the deals were at least suspect?

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue):** Again, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member probably realizes that much of the program which lacked so much control was beyond the specific knowledge of the Department because in many cases the Department had no record, because of the way the program had been set up, as to who had taken advantage of it. When it was necessary to terminate the program there