

Mr. Stevens: That is every hour of every business day another 70 Canadians are getting jobs. Just think if the whole 70 of the Opposition could get back to work—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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● (1120)

[Translation]

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

PROTECTION OF JOBS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, who wanted to hear some positive questions. Here is one. Yesterday, 1,000 workers came here from Quebec, begging for jobs. On what page and at which item is there any indication that these people will have their jobs? Could the Minister inform the House where it says so in the Budget?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as I said in response to a similar question yesterday, the Government is responsible for the bulk of the work that is now going on in shipyards. We plan to continue to route work into our shipyards.

If the Hon. Member will be patient, I am sure that even he will be rather pleased with the type of work that the Davie shipyard and other shipyards will be able to gain in the coming weeks and months.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR SOLUTION TO PROBLEM

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I asked a positive question, and the Minister was incapable of giving me an answer about the Budget. Now for my supplementary. Forty-four thousand jobs have been lost in Quebec! Could the Minister inform the House which page says how we can prevent the loss of 5,000 jobs in the East? What about the designated areas? On what page are they?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, clearly the MP has not been listening. When I said that another 70 will be added to the Canadian workforce nationally in the hour they apparently intend to spend with their negative questioning, it is partly a result of the very excellent Budget brought in by my colleague, the Minister of Finance.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

WOMEN—SOCIAL JUSTICE—MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Finance). Yesterday, I met with representatives of a number of women's groups from Quebec. All, without exception, said that the Conservative Budget's substantial tax increases put a heavy burden on women. Is that the meaning of Conservative justice?

[English]

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, first let me point out that one of the interesting things about the employment figures published this morning is that jobs for women have increased. I think most women would be happy to hear that.

As I said yesterday, the people of Canada know that this is a fair Budget and that it targets our spending to the areas which need it most. There is a refundable tax credit for people in the lower tax brackets, and the child tax credit is being paid earlier. That is something of benefit to women across the country.

DURATION OF SURTAX

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, all Canadians, particularly women who make decisions affecting the family, know full well that the taxes imposed by the Government, taking into account the compensatory measures brought in, are an unjust burden on every Canadian family.

My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance in the absence of the Minister of Finance. Considering that it is the woman who is usually involved in the decision-making process in the family, and that the 3 per cent surtax is very unfair because it hits everyone the same, why did the Minister of Finance tell a Montreal-based journalist that the Government intends to lift the surtax on the rich next year but has not planned to lift the surtax on ordinary Canadians until 1988? Why is there that injustice?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the surtax on the rich is considerably larger than it is on the poor, as the Hon. Member knows.

For an elderly widow with an income of \$10,000, the increase as a result of the surtax is \$2, which is more than offset by the refundable sales tax credit.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I want the Minister to deal with the question of unfairness. Is it Government policy, as the Minister of Finance told a Montreal journalist, that the Government plans to lift the surtax of 3 per cent on ordinary Canadians? Although this is not in the Budget, he plans to do it in 1988, which is an election year,