

[Translation]

## YOUTH

### GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE TO ANNOUNCE NEW PROGRAMS

**Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Youth. Last March 21, the Prime Minister promised new programs for young Canadians by saying that the Government would be announcing new programs, including programs to deal with the problems facing Canadian youth, at the proper time or near the end of the fiscal year, and in the appropriate circumstances.

Where are these new programs, Mr. Speaker? Is this another one of the forgotten or broken promises of the Prime Minister?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer officially my best wishes to the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice on his election to the House. I can offer him all my co-operation and the benefit of my long years of political experience and tell him that I am certain that he must be happy to see that the unemployment rate for young Canadians has been going down consistently since this Government has been in power. In contrast with what the previous Government had done, we have implemented a Canadian Jobs Strategy which takes the training needs of young Canadians into account.

Since my appointment to this portfolio, we have reviewed all the programs and looked at the general situation facing young Canadians. I hope to be able to make certain proposals to this House and the Government relatively soon.

### PROGRAMS FOR THE YOUNG—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, I probably do not have as much experience as the Hon. Member, but my own analysis of the facts did not produce the same figures nor, unfortunately, the same conclusions as his own. The reason for my question is that, on November 18, a drastic cut-back of \$76 million was announced at the Department of Employment and Immigration and the additional funds required by the Government will bring absolutely nothing new for young people. What does the Minister intend to do to reverse this trend and ensure that young people will have programs to meet their needs and expectations, as promised by the Government?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice that his memory is faulty. First, the unemployment rate for young Canadians is about 14.9 per cent. He is saying no, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps he does not like to hear it. Last year, we spent over \$750 million, which benefited 256,000 young Canadians. As for the cut back to the Innovation Program, this was a 3.7 per cent cut back applicable to all departmental programs. This program was slow to give results because of its originality, Mr. Speaker. Apparently, the funds

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would not have been used one way or another and this is why we chose to do what we did.

On the other hand, I can inform you that my predecessor had been able to obtain or to guarantee \$16 million—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Skeena.

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● (1450)

[English]

## TRADE

### UNITED STATES DUTY ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER—CANADIAN POSITION

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the countervail duty. If a suspension agreement on the softwood countervail is not reached between Canada and the United States in the next seven days, then those hundreds of millions of dollars paid in duty at the border will go to the United States treasury, not the Canadian treasury. Therefore, will the Minister advise the House of Canada's position on a suspension agreement? We know the provinces have different positions. Since we are down to the last seven days, what is Canada's position on a suspension agreement?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I will reply on behalf of the Minister who is at the First Ministers' Conference in Vancouver today. The Hon. Member may not have been in the House yesterday when it was explained that these discussions are ongoing with the provinces. The provinces own the resources and are the ones who have been charged under the countervailing Acts of the United States. They have to come to an agreement on fighting what we consider to be an unfair countervailing duty. I believe there will be discussions tomorrow at noon on trade matters affecting Canada and the United States. I am sure that the Hon. Member will hear an announcement after that meeting.

### CANADIAN OFFER

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Minister for International Trade made a once-only offer to the United States in seeking an out-of-court settlement, and it failed. Will there be another offer? Will the Deputy Prime Minister explain why, during these crucial seven days, the Minister for International Trade will be in Japan rather than here in Canada helping the Canadian forest industry?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, may I correct the perception the Hon. Member is trying to leave? It was at the request of the provinces, the request of the unions, and the