

MANPOWER

FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S OUTREACH PROJECTS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. On March 30 the minister expressed strong support for the women's Outreach program. Given that support, why has he moved to terminate the program? In particular, why has he refused to fund four excellent projects for women in Ontario beyond September?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, we have answered many of these same questions before, but I will repeat to the hon. member that we have increased the Outreach budget this year. We have substantially increased the number of Outreach projects that are allocated to women's concerns, almost 40 per cent above those of the previous government. We are finding new allocations of funds for Outreach projects. We have established eight additional women's counselling centres in our employment service. I think that demonstrates our very strong commitment to aiding women in the work force.

CONTINUATION OF FUNDING

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): The reason why a Liberal government in 1972 created the Outreach program was the realization that the existing structure of the minister's department was not fulfilling the job properly. Given the fact that the need still continues, will the minister at least commit the government to continue full funding of the existing 19 projects for more than the next few months?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, one of the basic principles of any Liberal government is that it can always improve upon things. We are using our ability to improve upon the delivery of services of the employment service. As the hon. member well knows, and I will repeat so that other members get proper information, we have established a major computerized job placement centre in major metropolitan areas across Canada which provides a much more efficient and effective way of placing women in jobs, and all other Canadians.

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AIRPORTS

RENOVATION OF TERMINAL 1 AT TORONTO

Mr. W. Kenneth Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact Transport Canada has announced it will spend \$27.2 million on extensive renovation of Terminal 1 at Toronto International Airport over the next three years, including \$2.7 million to remove the asbestos coating from the ceiling, will the minister advise when this asbestos insulation problem in Terminal 1 at Toronto International Airport will be resolved so that this potential health hazard will be alleviated?

Oral Questions

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, it is a three-year program. Therefore, the asbestos will be removed as the program progresses. The short answer is over three years. I want to emphasize that the asbestos at the airport has been tested. The Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of Public Works have stated there is no danger in the present situation.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

MEASURES ENVISAGED TO CURB HIGH INTEREST RATES

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I shall ask my question of the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Every Canadian knows that an interest rate of 20 or 22 per cent is a perfect way to strangle our economy, and on the long term to force many individuals and companies into bankruptcy. For instance, during the first quarter of 1981 the number of loans granted under the Small Businesses Loans Act decreased by 50 per cent compared with last year. Madam Speaker, I simply want to know what action the government will take to help those Canadians who are faced with interest rates so shocking that they are literally strangled by them, and when it will take this action.

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)): Madam Speaker, the hon. member seems to have drawn certain conclusions from the figures which he quoted. I would invite him to check, for instance, the economic growth rate for the last quarter of 1980 and the first quarter of 1981. He will see that there is evidence of growth in the economy. He can take certain indications and draw conclusions from them, but he should check to see whether these conclusions agree with the facts.

Mr. Kilgour: Madam Speaker, my supplementary is for the same minister. He is certainly aware that the Maislin transport company has asked its 15,000 employees in Canada and the United States to lend it a certain percentage of their wages to pay the \$12.5 million in interest which it has to pay this year. Does the minister intend to wait until this company and a hundred others like it are bankrupt, before taking action, or does he really want other companies to use the same type of loan as the Maislin company?

Mr. Bussières: Madam Speaker, I think that every time he mentions a specific company the hon. member should explain the particular conditions which surround the financial problems of that company, because otherwise such a reference will mean absolutely nothing. This cannot justify drawing generalized conclusions. Let him find and explain the causes of the