

Oral Questions

decision remains. We will bring in appropriate programs in due course.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM EXTENSION

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Prime Minister. Perhaps he would again consider my question. If the mechanics of a new youth program are not yet in place—and understandably it will take time to prepare such a program—is the Prime Minister willing to consider leaving this program in place, at least as a bridge?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the best programs that we can have for youth are found in a headline in *The Toronto Star* today which states: "Student Job Outlook Best Since '81, Experts Say".

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PROGRAM

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister who ought to know that telling the House that the Tories are no better than the Liberals, or that jobs are better in Toronto, does not help the youth of the country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCurdy: Will the Prime Minister resolve the contradiction and confusion which emanate from his Government by telling us who is right, the Secretary of State who says there will be a program in May, maybe, or maybe never, or before the end of March as he has said on a couple of occasions? Will we have a program as promised by the Prime Minister, or is this a sacred trust?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my statements are on the record. I hope my hon. friend would not do us the disservice of ever comparing us with the Liberals.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: They lost 285,000 youth jobs in their last mandate. In 18 months we have created 50,000 new ones. The Hon. Member should have the decency to stand up and applaud that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TIMING OF INTRODUCTION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister refuses to answer questions. Will the Government, as he promised, introduce a program for youth before the end of March, or maybe May, or never, as the Secretary of State has said?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have already allocated \$732 million for youth programs.

Ms. Copps: What about the promise?

Mr. Mulroney: Contrary to our Liberal friends, who lost 285,000 jobs for our young people, we have created 50,000 more jobs—

Ms. Copps: You promised!

Mr. Mulroney: Louder, louder! We are going to create more. The best way we can do that is by having a sound economy and a growing Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. Last Friday, on March 21, 1986, and not 1975, in answer to a question from the Hon. Member for Windsor West regarding new job programs for youth, the Prime Minister stated that the Government would be announcing its plans toward the end of the financial year. I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether this statement still reflects his Government's policy.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member can refer to more than Friday's statement. He could refer to a statement I made on March 3, well before the incident in the other place, when I said the following:

[English]

Our first obligation towards youth is to keep creating permanent jobs and this is exactly what we are doing. But have no fear concerning youth. This will be linked in due time not only with other programs, but with very important initiatives that will create more jobs for our young people.

At an appropriate time, and in a helpful manner, further action will be announced.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

INQUIRY IF MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE
BEFORE EASTER RECESS

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the Prime Minister prepared to promise, on behalf of his Government, that a ministerial statement will be made here in this House, either today or tomorrow, before the House adjourns for Easter?