

Oral Questions

● (1440)

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the Deschênes Commission did not actually request a six month extension. They wrote some weeks ago, giving us a progress report on the work they have done. They are doing a very thorough job, as the Hon. Member knows. They said they could not finish all of their work as they thought it should be done by the end of June of this year. They then set out certain options. Due to the illness of Mr. Justice Deschênes for some three months, we advised Mr. Justice Deschênes today that we would grant a further three month delay to submit the report by September 30.

As the Hon. Member knows, the U.S.S.R. did not respond to their requests to take certain evidence there. It was five months before they responded and they have not met all of the conditions that were set down. They violated the conditions by giving out to the public and the press the names of two persons who were among those to be investigated. The complete range of conditions—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Minister may want to complete this answer under Statements.

Mr. Crosbie: That is the position with respect to the U.S.S.R.

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CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

RELEASE OF FUNDING

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In a poll released today we are told that only 28 per cent of Canadians are satisfied with the Government's job-creation programs. When will the Minister start listening to ordinary Canadians and stop playing political games with these programs? With the unemployment rate at 9.6 per cent nationally and 24 per cent in the Acadian Peninsula, when will she restore the jobs budget to the same level as last year and release the moneys frozen by her Department all over the country?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we must be doing something right with the Canadian Jobs Strategy because that is reflected in the increased number of jobs created in the last year and a half—some 630,000 jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: I want to tell the Hon. Member that, although a number of his colleagues have insisted today that we should not proceed with job creation and training in the Acadian Peninsula—

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): We never said that.

Miss MacDonald: —we will do so, as we will do whether it is in Cape Breton, sections of Newfoundland, or as we did with single industry towns like Sault Ste. Marie, Trail, and other places where unemployment is so high.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Miss MacDonald: We will continue to operate in that way.

PUBLIC OPINION POLL

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, when will the Minister start telling the whole truth—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Allmand: —start telling the whole truth—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Once a week, Warren.

Mr. Crosbie: Out for the day. Queen for the Day.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, including the Minister of Justice. The Hon. Member knows that I must ask him, as I asked the Minister of Finance, to withdraw the imputation that is in that statement and simply proceed with his question. The Hon. Member will please withdraw that imputation.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I did not know that the whole truth or the half truth was wrong, but the Minister knows—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Member withdraw the imputation that the Chair has taken from his comment?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what I should withdraw but I will withdraw it at your request. I do not think I said anything wrong. The Minister knows that while many jobs are being created, many good jobs are being lost. The ones that are being created are often low paid, part-time, temporary and non-unionized—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. For the last time, does the Member have a question, please?

Mr. Allmand: When will the Minister come clean with Canadians and tell them the whole truth and recognize the dissatisfaction indicated by today's poll?