

[Translation]

CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

FORMATION OF MANPOWER RETRAINING COMMITTEE IN MONTREAL EAST

Mr. Édouard Desrosiers (Hochelaga—Maisonneuve): Last April 8, Mr. Speaker, Canada's Minister of Employment and Immigration and Quebec's Minister of Manpower and Income Security signed an agreement to set up a manpower retraining committee for Montreal East. The committee will be made up of officials of both Governments, the municipalities involved, unions and employers, and will take every step required to spur the Montreal East labour market and industry.

In addition to the two Ministers, the agreement was signed by several interested parties, including the Montreal Executive Committee Chairman, the Ville-d'Anjou mayor, the Montreal East mayor, the Quebec *Conseil du patronat* executive vice president, the CSD president, the Montreal Central Council president, the CNTU, and the QFL vice president.

Mr. Speaker, that is a good example of the kind of co-operation we now have among the various—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the 60 seconds have expired.

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[English]

MULTICULTURALISM

COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, over 700 delegates from ethnocultural communities across Canada attended the very successful Multiculturalism Means Business Conference held in Toronto last weekend. Over 1,500 persons heard the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) address on Saturday evening. This Conference launched a new dimension in multiculturalism. Heritage language, cultural enrichment, group and cross-cultural development, and race relations will all continue to receive strong federal Government support. In addition, new emphasis is being placed on equality of economic opportunity.

● (1410)

The conference focused on assisting individual entrepreneurs in our multicultural communities to promote their skills in business. Hand-in-hand with this, the Employment Equity Bill currently before the House is designed to ensure equality in hiring, promotion, pay, and training. We will not have true equality without equality of economic opportunity. The Government is committed to this goal.

S.O. 21

AGRICULTURE

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE ADVOCATED

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I hope Members of the House will not take somnolent self-satisfaction with regard to the Government's announcement today of the wheat stabilization payment. It is not an answer to the problems of farmers in western Canada. As Members of the House will know, it is a payment for last year's crop, at a time when prices were 20 per cent higher than they will be this year. This means that farmers will still face major problems in the forthcoming crop year.

What are we expecting? A \$1 billion pay-out from that stabilization fund next year? The fact is that we need much better answers. We need a comprehensive approach to the problem which will involve major initiatives in the international arena. This means obtaining the co-operation of the United States in a conference.

Most of all, we hope that all Members of the House will support a call for a major economic summit meeting of the provincial Premiers and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to come to the rescue of the western Canadian farmer before the economy goes down the drain.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

PRIVATIZATION OF CERTAIN CORPORATIONS

Mr. Guy Ricard (Laval): Mr. Speaker, the Quebec Government has announced that it is now in the final stages of privatizing Quebecair, to guarantee regional services and to maintain and increase the number of jobs in this company.

Quebec realizes that in many cases, the private sector can provide as good a service as, if not better than, the public sector, and at less cost to the taxpayer.

I am surprised to see that our Liberal colleagues, who object to every step taken by our Government to privatize or enhance profitability do not have the same attitude where Quebec is concerned. Have they finally recognized that it makes sense to restrict Government intervention to areas where it is absolutely necessary?

Throughout the world Governments are re-assessing their policies in this respect. In France, more than thirty companies have been sold. In Spain, industries like the automobile industry, truck manufacturing and industrial products have been returned to the private sector with great success.

We have faith in the ability of our entrepreneurs to provide a good service to their fellow citizens. It is too bad that the Opposition does not.