

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Mount Royal.

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[English]

EMPLOYMENT**CHALLENGE '85 PROGRAM**

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Given that the Challenger '85 program which the Minister announced was designed to provide jobs this summer for students and that most students have now finished college, CGEP, or university, and given that the Minister knows students need a minimum amount of savings in order to qualify for loans and bursaries, depending on the province from which they come, to continue their schooling this fall, can the Minister explain to the youth of this country, and to this House, why the \$30 million loan guarantee student entrepreneur program, which was to allow students to create their own jobs and demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit, is not off the ground as yet across this country?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have one of the Members opposite raise the subject of Challenge '85. It is the most successful student program that has ever been introduced in this country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: It has provided jobs and is providing jobs for well past the target group that we suggested at the outset of the program. It has brought \$100 million in additional funding from the private sector to the program, and some 60,000 additional jobs. That is a program which the Hon. Member should be standing up congratulating us on, and not criticizing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

YOUTH**STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Indeed, Madam Minister, I am glad for young Canadians, but still it is too late for those to whom you promised the entrepreneur program, which has yet to get under way. Please correct me if I wrong. Otherwise, I want to know whether the \$7.5 million set aside for this program will be reallocated on a proportional basis to the various provinces where the program was to be implemented.

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I must say to the Hon. Member that the programs are off and running and working well. Just so she will be aware that that is the opinion all across the country, I can tell her that headlines from papers read: "Student Job Picture Brighter this Summer"; "Metro Centre Sees Big Jump in Summer Jobs for Students". Right across the country that is what people are saying. I think the Hon. Member should also recognize that students are finding jobs this summer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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MINES AND MINING**BRITISH COLUMBIA NORTHEAST COAL PROJECT**

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): My question is for the Minister of State for Mines. It pertains to the \$1 billion hole in the wrong place, specifically the Quintette mine in British Columbia. It is apparent that the federal Government spent a half a billion dollars on infrastructure for this project against the advice of the chief geologist of British Columbia and against the advice of other prominent geologists.

Would the Minister of State for Mines tell this House whether the federal Government conducted any studies into the viability of the Quintette mine before making the half a billion dollar investment in infrastructure?

Hon. Bob Layton (Minister of State (Mines)): Mr. Speaker, in response to the question raised by the Hon. Member, the growing pains related to the start-up conditions of this mine in B.C. are being monitored by the Government of B.C. and by the industry that has invested in the project.

With regard to the studies that were done by the previous administration, I will make a full review of them and bring them to the Member's attention.

GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONS WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, the Quintette mine was predicted to be a complete fiasco. Now that prediction is coming true.

Would the Minister indicate whether this Government intends to deal with the Province of British Columbia in a different way because of the fact the Government was duped into spending a half a billion dollars on a hole in the wrong place? Is there going to be a different way of dealing with that Government if it is going to continue to dupe the federal Government?

Hon. Bob Layton (Minister of State (Mines)): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the investment made in infrastructure, the up-grading of the rail line to the ports and the ports themselves for handling the products of British Columbia, those facilities