

Oral Questions

Mr. Blais: Madam Speaker, there is every expectation that the obligations under the contract relating to the offsets will be made. The milestones identified to date have been satisfied. There will be an announcement on Tuesday of next week relating to one part of the offset package. Unfortunately, I will be in British Columbia and will be unable to participate. I am aware of two other specific areas where there will be investments directly related to the offset package, and those are meant for western Canada as well. In next Tuesday's package, an announcement will be made relating to an offset within the province of Quebec.

In terms of the lay-offs in Toronto which the hon. member properly identified, those are related directly to the softening of the civilian market in terms of the product of McDonnell Douglas, namely its DC-10 and DK-10.

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IMMIGRATION**INQUIRY RESPECTING MEASURES TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF AZORES EARTHQUAKE**

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In view of the fact that the minister now has under consideration a special plan whereby victims of the Italian earthquake would be admitted to Canada as visitors for three years with permission to work, will the minister say whether he is also prepared to consider special measures for victims of the Azores earthquake, many of whom have been living in tents since last January?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, we have closely examined the situation in the Azores. We have asked our immigration officers in Portugal to visit the area and report back to us any serious changes. At this point in time they report that rebuilding is taking place in a very effective manner and that the government of Portugal is making every possible effort to correct the problems which resulted from the earthquake. If there are continuing problems, we would be prepared to look at the representations of the government of Portugal, or of members of Parliament such as the hon. member for Trinity, to see if any further actions are required.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**JOB-CREATION PROGRAMS—POLICY OF DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On November 17 there was a press release from the Department of the Environment which said, in part, the following:

Mr. Roberts pointed out that Canada faces a similar energy dilemma to that of the United States. "We, like our neighbours to the south, have to achieve energy self-sufficiency . . . We too are looking for alternatives to our dependence

on foreign oil which will involve increasing our use of domestic coal . . . The political will to do this in Canada is strong and we must demonstrate this to the United States."

In support of the minister's statement, I moved a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43 on November 19 that the House support the Minister of State for Science and Technology and the Minister of the Environment in his efforts. I stated that the House should express its unanimous support for the principle which had been stated, "that the political will to do this in Canada is strong and we must demonstrate this to the United States". The Liberal caucus, the party of the minister, turned down my motion.

In view of the fact that the minister is repudiated by his own party, can the Prime Minister tell us who is speaking for the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of State for Science and Technology in this country? Who can we expect and anticipate will develop a meaningful program for research and job creation? Who speaks for the department, the minister or the Liberal caucus?

Mr. Roger Simmons (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, to the degree that the question was coherent, let me attempt an answer. In response to an earlier question, I indicated that the minister intends early in the new year to inform the House of a comprehensive policy in terms of research and development; he will be doing that.

In so far as the question relates to alternate forms of energy, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is on record, as is the Minister of Science and Technology and the Minister of the Environment, as saying that any coal conversion which we encourage and foster in the Atlantic area will require the observance of the strictest environmental controls.

Mr. Corbett: Madam Speaker, the coherence is quite simply that the minister has been repudiated by his Liberal colleagues and the government; that is the coherence of the question. I assume the Prime Minister will adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for Scarborough East of splitting that particular ministry, because obviously the minister is not competent to wear or capable of wearing both hats. I ask this question in order to ensure that jobs are created in this country and in order that the Prime Minister ensures that both of these departments, under new ministers and new direction, are funded properly so that job-creation opportunities are available in this country under a comprehensive and competent program of research and development.

Mr. Simmons: Madam Speaker, we will.

● (1450)

INQUIRY RESPECTING FUNDING OF FUSION PROGRAM

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the minister my question is for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment. My question arises out of a position which the minister took approximately five months