

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, we are also sensitive to the specific problems of our Canadian universities. Now, I may remind the House again that the responsibility for transferring the funds lies with the provinces. We are open to suggestions. We did not sign the unconditional agreement of 1977. That was done by the previous Government. If we could find a way, and I am confident that I will, to increase the resources allocated to universities and colleges, we shall certainly do so, but always within the framework of the constitutional agreements under which the provinces are responsible for education.

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[English]

**PUBLIC SERVICE****PENSION REFORM—POSITION OF PRESENT SUPERANNUATES**

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants):** Mr. Speaker—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nowlan:** Obviously I want to thank you very much for recognizing me on this very interesting day, which is one day from tomorrow!

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nowlan:** I sent around these little white carnations which were neutral—not red or blue, but white—and I am sorry that the three on the opposite side, Gaston, Warren, and Len, are not wearing them. The memo said: "This bud's for you. '65-'85".

My question, Mr. Speaker, is very serious, and I have a supplementary, depending on the answer. It is directed to the President of the Treasury Board who has a vicarious knowledge of the question. I laud him for the commendable work on public service pension reform but will he assure the House that, regardless of public service pension reform, the superannuates, those who are now retired, will not be adversely affected in any negotiations he concludes?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the Hon. Member for giving me notice that he would ask me the question. We have been working for several months on the question of pension reform and I share his concern and the concern of superannuates.

I repeat what I have said on a number of occasions. He can rest assured that superannuates will be treated in a fair and equitable manner and with all due respect to the commitments of this Party and the Government. We are trying to put the plan on a sound financial basis. No changes will be proposed to Cabinet without full consultation with representatives of all the parties involved.

**Mr. Nowlan:** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**ELECTION COMMITMENT**

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants):** Mr. Speaker, in the continuing discussions and negotiations, I hope and know that the President of the Treasury Board will follow the policy that was enunciated by our Party in the last election, which says:

While our Party recognizes the need to negotiate changes to arrangements with current employees, we are determined that these must not affect the benefits for current superannuates.

Will he follow that provision?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has quoted the commitments of this Party and the Government accurately. I believe that I said in my previous answer that whatever changes are brought to the plan will be fully in line with the commitments of this Party and the Government. I do not think I can be any clearer.

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**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES****FORMER ENVIRONMENT MINISTER'S LIMOUSINE EXPENSES IN LONDON**

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, what a difference 20 years makes. A welcome difference.

**Mr. Dingwall:** That Nowlan is a good man.

**Ms. Copps:** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. He has tried to justify the limousine in Paris. He has tried to justify the limousine in Sweden. Can he justify why, in London last December, for a one-day meeting, the former Minister of the Environment, the current Minister of State for Transport, quite literally chalked up 125 miles in limousine travel at a cost to the Canadian taxpayer of over \$400?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I am advised that the then Minister of the Environment was in London representing her Department and the Government of Canada at meetings of the Environment Ministers of the seven so-called summit countries. She used the occasion of being in London to accept invitations to tour a number of environment-related facilities in the Greater London area. In that connection, she incurred the expenses that the Hon. Member referred to in her question.

**INVOICED ITEMS**

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, according to the invoices which were filed by Prestoncrest Limited