

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: The right hon. Prime Minister has the floor.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I say this in full friendship. My hon. friends, the caucus of the Liberal Party, were warned by their leader last week not to be nervous Nellies, to appear to be confident and relaxed. I know how tough that will be for them, but convey an air of confidence.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the right hon. Prime Minister could try again.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, they asked me for months, they stood in the House, including my old friend from NDG and said to me: "Prime Minister, you have to quit". So I did and now they want me back. I do not know, is it too late?

It would be with great difficulty but I would forgive him his vote against the pharmaceutical bill even though it created thousands of jobs in Montreal. But because of what he said in regard to the fact that it alone—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

• (1445)

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, if the Liberals want to know why they are sinking like a stone, just turn to the member for Hamilton East.

To answer my friend's question, the pharmaceutical bill does not solve all the problems, obviously not at all, but this attitude brings about some important matters, for example just in the month of February.

[*Translation*]

A Maison des régions was created in Montreal, with a federal contribution of \$1.4 million.

[*English*]

"Neuro gets \$8.1 million to map brain".

[*Translation*]

Thirty million dollars for research at l'Enfant-Jésus and l'Hôtel Dieu hospitals in Quebec City. Governments have agreed to spend \$20 million on Mont-Tremblant over the next five years which means jobs for 700 or 800 people, plus 1,000 permanent jobs. Northern Telecom

will get millions of dollars from Japan for its plant in Lachine.

[*English*]

Bombardier is about to choose an engine for the new global express executive jet, creating 1,000 new jobs. These are the kinds of things brought about by low inflation, low interest rates and record new investment in Canada, and that is the way we will get Montreal moving again.

* * *

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of Employment and Immigration.

There are almost 50,000 men and women who are unemployed in Manitoba today. Roughly one-quarter of those unemployed people are young men and women between the ages of 15 and 24. Manitoba has the country's highest and fastest growing rate of poverty. It is the poorest of the poor among youth. Manitobans are tired of this despair. They want action.

What specific measures is the government prepared to take to get these people back to work, to eradicate poverty, to remove the despair Manitobans are feeling at this very minute?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, time would not allow me to list the number of endeavours this government has undertaken, but we could start with the \$3.8 billion we are spending in training and retraining.

Let me be specific because I think it is very important. Some 326,000 Canadians will receive skills training. Of these 164,000 will receive the training through the Unemployment Insurance Commission at a cost of some \$430 million and another 160,000 will be trained on a feepayer's basis. There is self-employment assistance of some \$110 million.

There is a list—I could go on and on—of the assistance we are providing for young people to get into the work force, especially through training and retraining to upgrade their skills or to give them skills if they have dropped out of school at an early age and want to come back to take training and retraining.