

*Oral Questions*

eastern Canada and elsewhere. I think with all of this coming together, with a genuine desire by the Government of Canada to create a climate that rewards risk and entrepreneurship, that the small business sector, the people who take the risks who create the jobs, the farmers, the fishermen, the small businessmen, will get a break, and in getting a break they will create jobs for Canadians.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister asked for suggestions. We have given him many from this side of the House. I remind him that it was in the election campaign in the summer of 1984 that he promised the people of Canada he would produce tens of thousands of jobs overnight. We want to see where those jobs are.

## TAX REDUCTION PROPOSAL

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Considering the Cabinet that he happens to lead has been remarkably bereft of positive ideas about job creation, at least one of his backbenchers in the last week or so, the Member for York East, has joined with others in making a positive suggestion about stimulating the economy and, therefore, the creation of more jobs, by giving Canadians a tax break. There is something positive and constructive. Will the Prime Minister assure the House that he will act on this constructive idea when the Budget is brought down next month?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of any constructive suggestion from the Leader of the New Democratic Party, I acknowledge that we have been getting tremendous ideas from a tremendous caucus, not only from the Member for York East, whom I salute, but from all of the other Members of the Conservative caucus who have contributed some magnificent ideas which are being considered by the Minister of Finance.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** With regard to the New Democratic Party, that Party sent a task force across the country. The NDP copied the Minister of Employment and Immigration's ideas. The New Democrats announced their new policy after the Minister of Employment and Immigration had brought in the greatest program of job creation heard in this country in decades.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** I see, Mr. Speaker, that the Easter break has not changed the theatre. I shall try the Minister of Finance to see if we can get some commitment to action from him.

## BUDGET INQUIRY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, let me now put a question to the Minister of Finance. The only action which the Government has taken so far is to announce a number of cut-backs in a whole variety of programs which have led to the reduction of jobs, just as it did in Great Britain, West Germany, British Columbia, and a lot of other places that took the same approach. Will the Minister of Finance assure us and, more important, the people of Canada, that when he brings in his Budget the old cut-back approach will be abandoned and that he will bring in some stimulative measures which will create more jobs and give Canadians some good reason to be optimistic about their future?

● (1430)

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am amused that the Hon. Member should take this approach. I believe it was the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor who was expressing a great deal of concern about the level of the federal government deficit, and now his Leader is ambivalent and does not know which way he should be going. I suggest that he wait until the week of May 20 when we will be bringing down a Budget which will give a clear signal to the people of Canada that there is a new environment, an environment wherein small-businessmen, people who have demonstrated a clear ability to create jobs, will be given the opportunity to do just that and solve our unemployment problems.

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## AGRICULTURE

## SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It is on the same topic of how we go about creating jobs and also preserving them. As he probably knows, within a matter of days the major sugar beet industry in Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec will be put out of business because of lack of action by the Government. The Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board has failed to obtain any form of agreement from Cabinet on remedial measures to deal with a problem which will put some 1,500 growers into the ground and result in the loss of some 600 to 800 production jobs.

Will the Prime Minister, as he has sometimes in the past, particularly in the Domtar case, personally intervene to ensure that Cabinet this week will deal with the sugar-beet problem and provide direct assistance to the growers so that they will not be put out of business?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)):** Mr. Speaker, that is precisely what the Government is doing. We are coming to a decision as quickly as we can. There are sugar-beet growers in town this week; many of them are in the gallery. It was 75 degrees yesterday in southern Manitoba. The planting season is upon us in southern Alberta, and they are very quick to plant in Quebec. We know all that.