

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

• (1120)

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I want to put the following question to the Deputy Prime Minister. Only he can answer a question on general government policy.

The Minister of the Environment, using a metaphor that the minister has just used, has bombed in his portfolio as Minister of the Environment. He is too busy on by-elections to concentrate on the big picture and his big program. For months we have been told that the government has a new plan for the environment. For months we have been told that the government has real spending plans for the environment. For months we have been told to wait for the Minister of Finance because he and the Minister of the Environment, when the Budget is brought down, are going to have a great new environmental protection program for Canada. Now we read, and I want the Deputy Prime Minister to comment on these reports, that the Minister of the Environment has failed and has fired blanks with his colleagues, particularly the Minister of Finance, and there will be no such program.

Would he confirm or deny those press reports? Would he assure us, hopefully, that that great plan for the environment that we have been waiting for from this newly-minted minister will finally see the light of day for Canadians?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Well, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to shooting blanks, the best example of that is the performance of the Leader of the Opposition in Question Period.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: Again, the Leader of the Opposition is relying upon *The Globe and Mail* for his research. I suppose his research staff has left him already because he is looking for a new job. The fact is that the—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Where is your answer?

Mr. Mazankowski: I will give you an answer. As a matter of fact, the Leader of the Opposition had two

Oral Questions

good answers to two very legitimate questions. I want to compliment both members for enlightening the minister.

Mr. Simmons: Order.

Mr. Mazankowski: If you will just give a little time, I will answer the question.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): How much time?

An hon. member: Stop rushing him.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): If you would like to sit down and get up later on—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I am momentarily speechless. Perhaps the minister could finish his answer.

Ms. Clancy: He hasn't started yet.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition should stop relying on *The Globe and Mail* for his questions in Question Period.

I can assure the hon. Leader of the Opposition, his colleagues, and the people of the country that the Minister of the Environment is working on a new environmental policy which will be all-encompassing. It is a very major priority. It was outlined in the Speech from the Throne and, as in so many other cases, when this government makes a commitment, it delivers.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour who is responsible for Montreal.

Three years after the publication of the Picard report suggesting a development plan for Montreal, noted the renowned economist Laurent Picard who wrote this report advises us now that it is being implemented in Toronto and not in Montreal.

Could the government advise us whether it needs to take a geography course to find out where Montreal is really located? Could the Minister explain to me what stopped the government from implementing the recommendations of this report?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make it clear to the hon. member for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville that contrary to