

ANC nor the South African Government, which is significant, have ruled out the possibility of negotiating one with the other. Neither side claims that the ANC would be the only representatives of blacks in South Africa.

I know Mr. Tambo has had conversations with Members of the House and others. I think his visit here can be a constructive step toward encouraging that kind of negotiation, if only because it will allow and require the ANC to respond to some of the accusations that, while they have appeared today in Canadian newspapers, are part of the regular fare issued by the Government of South Africa.

I think it is important for people who hear those accusations also to have the opportunity to hear directly Mr. Tambo's response to them. His presence here allows that to occur.

Mr. Speaker: I want to advise Members that there will be a question by the Hon. Member for Scarborough West, followed by a question by the Hon. Member for Trinity, and that will be the end of Question Period.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

ETHIOPIA—POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The long awaited finalization of the new Ethiopian Constitution will give the Government of that country a chance to show that a new Constitution can mean a new beginning for human rights.

Will the Government consider using the considerable moral leverage of Canada, in view of its large and continued aid program, to persuade the Government of Ethiopia that its political prisoners should be released or, at the very least, be put on charge and given a fair trial?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. It is valuable and timely. There have been substantial rumours that in consort with the proclamation of a new Constitution there would be an amnesty granted in Ethiopia. We have been making representations on human rights questions for some time and certainly it is our view—and I take the opportunity to make it clear publicly again to the Government of Ethiopia—that the proclamation of the Constitution should be accompanied by an amnesty for political prisoners.

Oral Questions

EMPLOYMENT

OLDER WORKER ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In his February, 1986, Budget he announced a new program for older worker adjustment to begin in August, 1986. The Government discontinued the previous Liberal Government's labour adjustment benefit but has yet to put in place its own program. Will the Minister assure the House that he is prepared to act to offer retraining and placement to the increasing number of Canadians in middle life who are facing unemployment?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that is precisely the objective of that program. We recognize the importance of this for people who see their jobs change as a result of technological progress and we must be responsive to that. That is particularly important for those who, in their later years of work, find it more difficult to get that training and find another occupation. That is precisely what we are trying to do.

REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, if and when the Government introduces the program for older workers' adjustment, only about 2,000 older workers will be helped. The Government ended one generous program a year ago. It has not put in place even the limited replacement it promised. Will the Minister give us an assurance of just when the new program will be in place?

● (1210)

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is well aware of the fact that there are negotiations under way with the provinces right now, and they have been going on for some little while. There needs to be some response from the provinces on this but we are very definitely committed to it, as is the case with the Canadian Job Strategy which makes a considerable amount of—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: That is really working well, isn't it? That is a wonderful program.

Mr. Wilson: Those Hon. Members do not like to hear the truth again. They are very much aware that we have changed the previous Government's make work programs where money was spilled out to try to tide people over from one period of entitlement to unemployment insurance to another. That was changed by a new program which involved career development and training for almost the entire amount of the funds made available under the Canadian Job Strategy.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wilson: The truth hurts and we understand that clearly.