

*Oral Questions*

terms of lost jobs, compared to what we would otherwise have? How many jobs is his policy costing this country?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, this line of questioning takes me back to November, 1984, and May and June of 1985, when his Leader said the policies being proposed by this Government through the economic statement and the Budgets would cost this country 100,000 to 200,000 jobs. Since that time we have created somewhere between 1.2 million and 1.3 million jobs.

That is the fundamental point that I am making.

**Mr. Riis:** Look what kind of jobs they are.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** They are permanent jobs. The Hon. Member asks what kind of jobs they are. They are permanent jobs, 85 per cent full-time jobs, unlike the previous four years under the Liberal Government when they were 85 per cent part-time jobs.

Let me get back to the point raised by the Hon. Member. You cannot isolate one element from economic policy and ask the simplistic question that the Hon. Member just asked. You have to look at the full range of economic policy, including controlling inflation. It was back in the 1970s and early 1980s that we let inflation get out of control in this country, beginning under the regime of the Leader of the Opposition when he was Minister of Finance, when they allowed inflation to get out of control. That led to interest rates in excess of 20 per cent—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

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**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT****FEDERAL SPENDING IN MANICOUAGAN**

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the shameful performance of his boss over the weekend. During the weekend the Prime Minister bragged about pouring millions of taxpayers' dollars into his own riding. The largess of these hundreds of millions of dollars is reported to be somewhere between \$261 million and \$500 million.

How can the Prime Minister justify favouring his own constituency while ignoring the needs of millions of other Canadians? How can he justify the use of government jets to do what he himself qualified as campaigning?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member might be more specific. I would like to know precisely what he is against. He talks about the \$200 million, but in that

figure is included \$110 million to clean up the St. Lawrence River. Is the Hon. Member against that? If that is the position of his Party, let him so state.

**Mr. Boudria:** I am for equity, that is what I am for.

[*Translation*]

QUERY WHY PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT FAVOUR OTHER CONSTITUENCIES AS MUCH AS HIS OWN

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister, and I may remind him that it was his Government that put an end to regional development programs and made it harder for people on unemployment insurance to receive their benefits, to explain the Prime Minister's largesse in his own backyard and the fact that by the same token he is neglecting other Canadians.

The Prime Minister said yesterday that his constituents had sent their taxes to Ottawa for forty or fifty years, but if that is a prerequisite for receiving federal funding, why doesn't the Prime Minister make the same funding available to the 281 other ridings in this country? And why is the Prime Minister showing favouritism to his own riding instead of trying to help all Canadians from coast to coast?

[*English*]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I realize that the Hon. Member had his question written out before he heard the answer provided by the Minister of Finance to another Member with regard to the economic performance of this Government, particularly in the area of job creation throughout Canada. Some 1.267 million jobs have been created across the country because of sound economic policy, with sound regional development policy.

If the Hon. Member is arguing against a \$65 million program for regional development in that particular area which has had significant amounts of high unemployment there, if he is against the fact that this Government zeroes in on pockets of high unemployment, let him so state.

The fact is that the performance of this Government in terms of job creation, economic growth, and in terms of addressing regional development problems has been 1,000 per cent better than the administration of which he was a member.

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**REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION****MANITOBA ALUMINUM SMELTER PROJECT**

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my question relates to a previous question in which the Minister who responded said that he did not understand the nature of the question and the concern that Manitobans had about the Prime Minister's promises respecting an aluminum smelter in Quebec. That tells me that the Minister and his colleague still