

*Oral Questions*

## SYRIA—ROLE IN LEBANON—MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and it also deals with external affairs. Last Wednesday and Thursday the Secretary of State for External Affairs was in Damascus, Syria, where he gave a press interview in which he had some surprising things to say about Syria and its role in Lebanon. Among other things, the Secretary of State was quoted as saying:

Syria, like Canada, wants Lebanon to be sovereign and independent.

Is it the view of the Government that that is why Syria, along with 5,000 Soviet troops, is occupying the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon? Is it the view of the Government that Syria is playing a useful role and that the Syrians are there in eastern Lebanon because they want Lebanon to be sovereign and independent?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, I believe the comments made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in Syria last week, when accurately read, are consistent with the policy which the Canadian Government has taken, and the rhetorical conclusions that the Hon. Member reaches are not justified by his position.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Andre:** Madam Speaker, I will be glad to send the Minister the quotes of his senior Minister's statement.

## PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** My supplementary question is for the Prime Minister because it deals with government policy. The Secretary of State for External Affairs was also quoted as saying that Canada has authorized the establishment of official contacts with the PLO and that the PLO had a role to play in the peace negotiations. Can the Prime Minister tell the House when Canada officially recognized the PLO and can he indicate which faction of the PLO, that which supported by Syria, or that under the leadership of Arafat? Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether he feels that the PLO has a role to play in discussions on the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member's question is not based on his premises. He asks when have we recognized the PLO. The answer is we have not recognized the PLO.

[*Translation*]

FORTHCOMING COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN INDIA—  
POSSIBLE CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR GRENADIAN POLITICAL  
STABILITY

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency-Orléans):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. As a member of the Commonwealth, Canada has a special

relationship with Grenada and with the other Caribbean countries that took part in the U.S. military intervention in that country.

Considering this common membership in the Commonwealth, could the Right Hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether Canada, possibly in consultation with Great Britain, intends to take advantage of the next conference of Commonwealth countries to be held in India next month and which the Prime Minister will attend, to submit to co-members proposals aimed at restoring political stability in Grenada?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, we shall certainly be discussing the situation in Grenada at the next Commonwealth conference. I believe I have already indicated that it was discussed at the last Commonwealth conference, that is, at the Melbourne Summit in 1981, and also at the regional summit held in St-Lucia at the beginning of 1983. We shall certainly be discussing this subject again in November.

[*English*]

**Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Member for St. John's West.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who was here, but he is like the Scarlet Pimpernel. I presume he is behind the curtains somewhere. I would like to wait for him to come back, if you do not mind.

\* \* \*

## EMPLOYMENT

## PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUTH JOB-CREATION PROGRAMS

**Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Minister knows that a healthy private sector is the key to the establishment of long-term jobs for Canadians. However, this past weekend the Minister was reported as saying that he doubts the private sector would be interested in a co-operative program with Government to hire young Canadians in these economic conditions. What does the Minister feel has to be done to facilitate recovery in the private sector so that the private sector would be willing to participate in co-operative programs to hire young Canadians? What are the Minister's plans to achieve private sector involvement in long-term job establishment?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** No, Madam Speaker, what I said this weekend was that we have not had as strong a take up as we had expected in some of our industrial training and skills development programs. The reason for that has been the reluctance of some employers to take on young people as trainees given the overhead costs involved, even though there is substantial support or contribution coming from the federal Government to