

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Cassidy: What concrete action is the Minister of Finance considering for the great many unemployed young people in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area of the province of Quebec?

[English]

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I presume the Hon. Member has not been in the House this week because the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration has set forth a very clear and positive innovative policy in the amount of \$205 million that is clearly directed to the younger people of this country, particularly students.

Mr. Cassidy: Just students.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): She has indicated on many occasions that there are other aspects of this policy which she will be announcing soon. I suggest that the Hon. Member exercise a degree of patience. The answers will be coming.

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NATIONAL REVENUE**INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS—REACTIVATION SOUGHT FOR ENERGY EXPLORATION SMALL BUSINESSES**

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Revenue, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary. The Department is well aware that small businesses directly involved in oil and gas activity, particularly seismic lines and well site preparation, have been denied investment tax credits on the equipment used by them in these particular operations. This is of great concern to a riding like Peace River, because it can literally mean hundreds of jobs.

Will the Department address the situation and reactivate the use of these investment tax credits for these people, so we can ensure that we can protect these jobs for the people in Peace River and other parts of the oil and gas industry?

[Translation]

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Hon. Member for his question as well as his interest in this issue. The point he is making is well known to the Department. The situation results from a judicial decision rendered in 1983, and I can assure the Hon. Member that the Department, following its review of the tax credit scheme offered to small businesses, will announce in the near future that the type of operation he is interested in will be entitled to the tax credit, just as was formerly the case.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF HON. ARTHUR DONAHOE, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF NOVA SCOTIA**

Mr. Speaker: May I advise the House of the presence in our gallery today of the Hon. Arthur Donahoe, Speaker of the House of Assembly, of Nova Scotia.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF HON. RICHARD GUAY, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUEBEC

Mr. Speaker: I wish also to advise the House of the presence in our gallery today of the Hon. Richard Guay, Speaker of the Quebec National Assembly.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—JOB CLASSIFICATIONS**

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board or to his Parliamentary Secretary but I do not see him either. I will therefore direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Earlier this week, I put a question to the President of the Treasury Board about job classifications in the Public Service. In his answer, the Minister said in an offhand manner, and I refer to page 1964 in *Hansard*:

I am happy to report to the Hon. Member that we are making some very interesting progress on all six issues that we are discussing at the moment.

● (1150)

[English]

I should like to ask the Minister if these six issues to which he referred in the House on Monday were the master contract, political rights, a dental plan, adjustment procedures, amendments to the Public Service Staff Relations Act, and public service pensions. Are those the issues to which he was referring in the House?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have discussed this matter briefly with the President of the Treasury Board, and he says that the discussions he is having with the unions have been very, very productive, and that they are moving along nicely in reaching some resolution to the problems which are under discussion right now. His very great hope and expectation are that the result of these discussions will be a great improvement in labour-management relations.