

Oral Questions

mental officials gave the Member for Saskatoon West a reply, in accordance with the letter and the intent of the Access to Information Act.

[*English*]

Mr. Beatty: Four questions, four evasions.

ACCESS OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO FILM

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has acknowledged that he has personally viewed the film. Would the Minister tell us what is in the film that Members of Parliament cannot see with respect to the attitude of the auditors? What is it that is being cut out? What is it that is being covered up? What is it that we cannot see?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is showing contempt for the laws passed by this Parliament. If his ignorance or bad faith or blind partisanship did not prevent him from doing so, he would have taken the time to read the Access to Information Act, where he would see that under the provisions of this Act, the Department may protect certain kinds of information. I do not know what was taken out, but I do know that the officials who gave the Hon. Member access to the film did so in accordance with the letter and the intent of the Act.

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● (1120)

[*English*]

EMPLOYMENT

SPENDING ESTIMATES FOR JOB CREATION

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Estimates which were released on Tuesday indicate that the Government has cut spending on job creation by \$172 million. According to the Government's own criterion of roughly \$4,000 per job, the loss of this money will cost 42,000 jobs. How can the Minister justify cutting funding for job creation at this time of very high, crisis level, unemployment?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman may be miscomparing figures. He was not exactly clear what comparison he was making, but I do not think that the facts will bear out that there was a cut of the kind he has described. What he may be doing is comparing the Main Estimates which were presented a few days ago, but he must remember that, as the fiscal year goes on, those Main Estimates are increased by Supplementary Estimates. It may be that he is comparing apples and oranges and not comparing one set of Main Estimates with another.

BUDGET PROPOSALS

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, what I am pointing out is that the Estimates cut funding for job creation by \$170 million. The Minister may promise money down the road, but the unemployed need that money today. The Budget added 40 per cent to the PIP grants, which is another \$450 million for the oil companies. How can the Minister give \$450 million to the oil companies, which is less than he put in the Budget for the unemployed? How can he justify that at this time of unemployment?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have two comments. If indeed in the Budget there was an increase of funding flowing toward the problem of the unemployed, particularly young people, and if the Member does a fair comparison of our expenditure projections, he will find that we are not cutting back funding for job creation.

In so far as the PIP grants are concerned, this is a question which should be directed to the Minister responsible, and not to me.

OUTREACH PROGRAM FUNDING

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, the Estimates also indicate that the Minister is cutting funds for the Outreach Program by some \$5 million, which will be a loss of 25,000 placements. How does the Minister justify slashing the Outreach Program, which has helped disabled Canadians and those who lack job skills? Is he simply taking advice from the former Conservative Finance Minister who said over the CBC this morning that a Conservative Government would cut job-creation funding?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, that may very well be the view of the Conservative Party. It is not our view. The basic answer to the Hon. Member's question is the one which I gave to him earlier, that what he must look at is not the expenditures last year in comparison with the Main Estimates. He must look at the figures which respond to the Main Estimates as we go through the year with the Supplementary Estimates added. He has to make a fair comparison and compare the same things, not different things.

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FINANCE

EFFECT OF TAXATION ON DISTILLING INDUSTRY

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I will direct my question to the Minister from Etobicoke North. On February 6 I asked the Minister of Finance about excessive taxation on alcohol products and lost jobs in the distilling industry. In his holier than thou reply, he said that declining sales were the result of decreased consumption by Canadians, a trend we should