

• (1420)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I think, as the Hon. Member recognizes, the Auditor General is, as he should be, a perfectionist. It is always his job to scrape and find further faults. I am sure if the Hon. Member's quotations were placed in context he would see that the Auditor General recognizes, and has stated, that there is enormous progress in the application of administrative practices. For instance, I know for a fact that many other countries are coming to study our PEM system. They find that we have made more advances here than in any other democratic society.

**Mr. Epp:** Name one of them.

**Mr. Trudeau:** PEMS is one of them, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Epp:** What country?

**Mr. Trudeau:** If the Hon. Member wants to see the good things the Auditor General has said about the Government's progress, I will gladly send him an underlined copy. I say that without even having read it. I know that the Auditor General once again has recognized progress. It is his job to try to find ever new sources of perfection, of excellence, and that is what the Government welcomes in his research. It has to be put in context, Madam Speaker.

#### MANAGEMENT CONTROL

**Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Madam Speaker, the Right Hon. Prime Minister is absolutely correct. Canada is light years ahead of other western world governments in its progress in management. There is no doubt about that. That is due to the work of the Auditor General, the Comptroller General, and the Public Accounts Committee. But where the system seems to be out of control is that all the things about which the Prime Minister speaks deal with process and not substance. Will the Prime Minister not now move the system out of process and into substance so we can get the system under control, because if it continues like it is, nothing will happen?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, like Le Verrier I knew there was a star there without having actually seen it, just by studying mathematics. In the same way, knowing the Auditor General to be a fair man, I told the Hon. Member that his questions were not balanced, and the Minister of State for Economic Development has just brought me a couple of quotes. Let me read from page 95 of the Auditor General's Report:

By contrast with our findings in 1978, we found that departments have made considerable progress in planning and carrying out corporate program evaluations.

**Mr. Huntington:** Now answer the question.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Also on page 95 we find:

—we observed improvements in the quality of evaluations undertaken.

#### Oral Questions

I jump a couple of pages to page 98 which reads:

We found that very real progress has been made. Most of the major departments and many of the agencies have the basic infrastructure for evaluation in place. Many of these are actively attempting to carry out evaluations.

I said the Auditor General is fair. I do not think the Opposition is.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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#### ENERGY

##### PETROLEUM INCENTIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION AND INVESTIGATION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister will be aware that when the Petroleum Incentives Program was introduced, we in this Party were critical because it would meet neither the energy needs nor provide jobs anywhere proportionate to the amount of money spent.

The Auditor General was particularly critical of the Program this morning, a Program which has cost the Canadian taxpayers \$2 billion to date and will cost up to \$8 billion by the end of 1986. In view of the harsh criticism of this Program by the Auditor General, will the Minister now announce suspension of the Program until it is looked at by a committee of this House and until that committee reports back?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Again, Madam Speaker, the Auditor General said that the Program was well managed. He said that we should try to evaluate the Program immediately. But in fact the Program has only been in place for one year. Therefore it is very difficult to have a progress report when a program has been in place for less than one year.

I would like to say to the Hon. Member that what he is proposing at this time would amount to closing down all activities off the coast of Labrador, off the coast of Newfoundland, in Nova Scotia and the North. I do not think anybody in Canada who believes in energy self-sufficiency and security of oil and gas supply would advocate that we should stop all drilling at this time in Canada Lands, as the Hon. Member is proposing.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, as the Conservative Member beside me has just said, why do we have to stop the drilling? There are other ways of doing the drilling than under a program which is wasting millions of dollars of taxpayers' money. That is the point.

##### REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Considering that the Auditor General