

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is aware of the fact that we are experiencing disruption caused by a global price war which is being carried out for political reasons by Saudi Arabia and other countries. It is affecting the world price of oil. With respect to what I am doing about it, as the Hon. Member has asked, I am in constant touch with the industry and with the Ministers and the Premiers of the producing provinces to ensure that we are kept informed of what is happening.

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, I think we are all well informed on what is happening. My question to the Minister who is responsible for this industry is simply this. Right now the Government is asking hundreds and perhaps thousands of Albertans to bleed, while it sits back in inaction. Rather than sitting back and letting the free market forces destroy the Albertan economy, thus putting thousands of workers on the unemployment rolls, what does the Minister of Energy plan to do?

**Mr. McDermid:** NDP flip-flop!

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the free market forces to which the Hon. Member refers were responsible for record drilling being undertaken in western Canada last year after we brought in the Western Accord. As I have told—

**Mr. Riis:** Let's talk about the future.

**Mr. Broadbent:** That was when prices were high. What about now?

**Miss Carney:** I am really amused by the spectacle of the NDP supporting the producers.

**Mr. Broadbent:** It's your own ignorance, lady!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille).

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## EDUCATION

## FUNDING OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. The Nielsen Report flatly stated that there is no evidence that post-secondary education is underfunded. As the Government's expert in these matters, and in justification of his recent cut-back to the formula for federal funding of Canada's universities and colleges, does the Secretary of State agree with the assessment that post-secondary education is not underfunded?

• (1430)

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as you well know, these study team reports have all been referred to the respective standing committees. That is where the voluminous options of the study team reports should be examined. That is where the kind of question put by the Hon. Member should be asked of whatever witnesses the committee deems to call before it, in whatever mode it wishes to examine the reports. That is the opportunity in which he is invited to participate.

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his reply, but that does not cut it off at the pass. I am asking the Secretary of State a simple question. Does he agree that the post-secondary educational system is not underfunded?

[Translation]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the Acting Prime Minister has said several times, as he did just now, that the reports will be referred to the committees concerned. Furthermore, the task force's recommendations contain a number of items that we will take time to consider, if you don't mind, and subsequently, we will be able to inform the House how they will be implemented, which will basically depend on the results of the studies that will be made.

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## YOUTH

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. Does the Government intend to announce a program for youth before Easter, as promised by the Prime Minister a few days ago, yes or no?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, when the Prime Minister said that we would be announcing a new program for youth, which, incidentally, is not necessarily a job creation program, since the two are not necessarily connected, he never said that he would announce it before Easter. The time frame for announcing Government programs is determined not by chance or by pressures from outside but by the Government itself, which will decide when these new programs are to be announced.