

## FEDERAL FINANCING INQUIRY

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Minister responsible for DRIE has also met with representatives of this company to discuss the possibility of federal government funding for this project. I wonder if the Acting Minister of DRIE can inform the House whether or not federal financing for further studies, environmental and others, on this project is being considered at this time and whether or not information is being exchanged with the Government of Newfoundland on this project.

[Translation]

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, I shall take notice of the question and refer it to the Minister so that he may reply to the Hon. Member.

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## FINANCE

## INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER INTENDS TO MEET CERTAIN GROUPS

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Finance.

Under the tax review program of the Government, you must be planning to meet groups who represent the Canadian public.

Have you planned to meet groups from Quebec, such as the *Conseil du patronat*, the *Groupement québécois d'entreprises* and the *Chambre de commerce de Montréal*? If so, when will you be meeting these groups?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that we shall be meeting many groups from Quebec, including the *Mouvement Desjardins*, the *Conseil du patronat* and the Confederation of National Trade Unions.

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[English]

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

## AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my question as well is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. The Government has told the research councils to find more private-sector money and has instituted a matching grant formula, yet a double standard between the granting agencies has been instituted. What convoluted answer can the

## Oral Questions

Minister provide us to justify tax credits for donations to the natural and medical sciences but not to the social sciences and the humanities? Is the Government telling us that social sciences and the humanities are simply not that important?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, certainly the premise of the question is not acceptable. It turns out that the Government's grants to all of these councils have been meaningfully increased. It is true that certain parts are matched differently but the over-all contribution will increase greatly. That should be clear to all Members of the House.

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is addressed to the Secretary of State who is in charge of funding for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. How can the Minister, who is a decent and fair-minded person, continue to serve a Government that so blatantly treats research particularly in the social sciences and humanities with such contempt and unfairness?

**Hon. David Crombie (Secretary of State of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, this morning I met with the Chairman of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. He supports the Government, as I would expect the Hon. Member should.

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[Translation]

## LABOUR

## OLDER WORKERS' ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour.

Since the Labour Adjustment Benefit program was terminated last August, and as the Minister of Finance made the announcement in his last Budget, can the Minister tell the House what initiative he has taken and what is the status of negotiations with the provinces on the establishment of the new Program for Older Worker Adjustment which is supposed to improve and give some flexibility to the eligibility criteria of the new POWA for older workers, particularly in the textile, clothing and footwear industries?

**Hon. Pierre Cadieux (Minister of Labour):** As I said in the House last week, Mr. Speaker, \$125 million have been set aside for this program, about which I personally met with all my provincial counterparts. Negotiations are progressing between our officials with a view to creating a program designed for all older workers throughout Canada.