

Oral Questions

leaders of the tricouncils last night here in Ottawa. I have been on the phone to Chief Mitchell again today.

As a result of our intervention with the Attorney General for Ontario, OPP police patrols were instituted on Cornwall Island last evening. As a result of that, I am told, the evening passed in a very peaceful and orderly fashion and that as of this moment peace has been restored.

We hope to have further information to report as it becomes available.

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WOMEN'S CENTRES

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Recently, in Vancouver the Meralomas Rugby Club hosted something they call "hard rock night" a so-called party. At this event, they put on a skit of the Montreal massacre with a floor plan of the Ecole Polytechnique with drawings to show where the young women had died. Toy guns were passed around at this party. A video was shown of a Chinese person, his pockets stuffed full of money, going around buying up Vancouver real estate and at the end the Chinese person was hanged. This is something—

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. As the hon. member knows, I come from Vancouver and played many games of rugby against that particular club, but that is not why I am rising. The reason I am rising is that I cannot see the relevance of the question to anything that has to do with administration of government. I wish the hon. member would put her question very clearly and perhaps we could then see what it is.

Ms. Black: Mr. Speaker, this government has cut back funding to women's programs—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. I would ask the hon. member to put her question.

Ms. Black: Will the government reinstitute the funding that has been cut to women's programs and to multiculturalism over the past two years so that the very badly needed education in this whole area in Canada will be addressed?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely outrageous. The program that has been reduced in my ministry does not—and I repeat—does not and has never funded activities which provide direct social and health services to the public.

There was a specific program that was used for information, for advocacy, for education. That program now has less money. That is recognized. Core funding, as a result, was taken away from the women's centres.

I have had some excellent meetings with women across the country. We have been trying to look creatively on how we both, in partnership, and certainly we are looking for ways of diversification as well, can guarantee their continued existence. That process should be allowed to continue right now.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, that is my point exactly. This funding was meant for education to address these very issues. This has happened not only in Vancouver, it has happened at Queen's, it has happened in Calgary, it has happened in the Maritimes and the answer from these people is that women do not have a sense of humour. They need the education. That is what the women's program funding is meant to do, provide the education. Reinstate it. Reinstate the funding for educational purposes now.

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, we indeed had some excellent meetings in the last few weeks with representatives of women's centres from coast to coast. We indicated quite clearly that if they had any creative ideas that I would be prepared to examine them, which is being done, and I will get back to them as soon as we have had an opportunity to review carefully what they are asking me to look at.

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[*Translation*]

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Gilbert Chartrand (Verdun—Saint-Paul): Mr. Speaker, current economic restructuring in Montreal is causing serious problems for workers in that city. My question is directed to the Minister of Employment. What does the minister propose to do to solve the problem of cyclical unemployment and manpower adjustment on Montreal Island?