

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I did not use the word intentionally at all. I will withdraw any implications, but I let it stand that I will not—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member for York—South Weston.

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CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

NEW BRUNSWICK JOB-CREATION FUNDING

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It concerns the memo that was written by one of her Deputy Ministers. This memo was received in her office on April 10, 55 days ago. It reflects the Minister's cynical attitude towards job creation in Canada. My question to the Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am going to allow the question, but I am having some trouble with the comments that are going back and forth between the sides personally about individuals. May I please have the question?

Mr. Nunziata: Would the Minister not agree that it is improper, inappropriate, and unacceptable for her Department to use federal public funds for job creation in a partisan, political fashion to assist her friend Richard Hatfield?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would agree that is improper if that is what was being done. I can assure the Hon. Member that that is not what is being done.

DEPUTY MINISTER'S MEMORANDUM

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, the Minister, in a previous answer, indicated that she only saw the memo last night. Is the Minister suggesting that a memo written by her Deputy Minister 55 days ago and received in her office 55 days ago was not brought to her attention until last night?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the content or the issue dealt with in the memo has been raised a number of times with me. I want to assure the Hon. Member that the action that we have taken in this regard is to move the processes forward. What we are saying is we want to accelerate the process of implementing the full Community Futures Program in the Acadian peninsula, and we want to accelerate the agreements with regard to the National Training Act. Those discussions have been ongoing, and I am hoping that they will very shortly be near a successful conclusion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FUNDING OF JOB CREATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It deals with the same issue. First we had a

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previous Minister in the same Department who tried to use taxpayers' money to recruit young Conservatives for the Government. Now we have, within the Minister's Department, another attempt to use taxpayers' money to get a Conservative elected.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member's preamble is too long. Your question, please?

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister not agree with me that funding for the unemployed in New Brunswick ought to be on the basis of the need for jobs rather than political greed for office?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the economic region in question, the Acadian peninsula of New Brunswick, has an unemployment rate of 24 per cent. That is the highest of the five economic regions in New Brunswick. We have been discussing with that economic region the implementation of a Community Futures Program. We have also been applying other programs under the Canadian Jobs Strategy. We are doing what we can to alleviate the unemployment situation in that area. We will continue to do so.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, in light of the seriousness of the unemployment in New Brunswick, why then would the Minister attach the whole need to grant the moneys for unemployment programs in New Brunswick to whether, in fact, Mr. Hatfield will be re-elected?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think that that statement is utterly uncalled for and does not in any way reflect what I am doing. What I am trying to do in the Canadian Jobs Strategy is to ensure that those areas of the country which need the help the most receive it. That is what we have been trying to do.

If Hon. Members know of the operations of either the lead corporations or the Community Futures Program they know that it takes up to the better part of a year to get that program fully implemented in any one part of the country. What we have been trying to do is to accelerate that.

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WAR CRIMINALS

DESCHÊNES COMMISSION—DELAY IN SUBMITTING REPORT

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Recent reports have indicated that the Deschênes Commission has requested a further six-month extension of its mandate with a view to somehow negotiating Soviet compliance with the six Canadian rules of evidence, and completing a written report. Will the Minister advise the House whether he has received such a request, and if so, will an extension will be granted, and for what purpose?