

Oral Questions

has put forward the proposition. Because of the present social programs that we want to maintain, at the upper level is it possible to redirect some of those social resources to those more in need?

Mr. Deans: What about the middle income earners?

Mr. Epp (Provencher): I have heard the NDP put forward that proposal time, after time, after time. That is the proposal which the Right Hon. Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, and this Government are putting forward for discussion. I am glad that we can get into a rational discussion, rather than putting forward these straw men which they always want to put up.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows full well what our position is. It is the Government's position we want. We would like to have the Minister go on *The Journal* tonight to explain it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: Let him go, Erik.

REQUEST THAT WHITE PAPER BE RELEASED BEFORE CHRISTMAS RECESS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Since the Minister's officials have indicated there is a Government paper that will be available before Christmas on this very subject, will he release it immediately so we can debate it before the House closes? This Party wants to know.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, in view of the success we had, both in the September 4 election and in the debate on July 26 in which the Member obviously put forward statements from which she would now like to withdraw, I want to say to her that when papers are completed, as I am sure the NDP Government in Manitoba would do also when its Cabinet makes a decision and makes it public, we will make ours public too.

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[Translation]

EDUCATION

OPEN HOUSE CANADA PROGRAM—BUDGETARY CUTBACKS—
INSTITUTIONS IN REMOTE AREAS

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State.

Could the Minister inform the House whether the 28.5 per cent reduction in funding for the Open House Canada Program will affect institutions in remote areas that provide special services for second language teaching?

I am thinking of the Jonquière CEGEP, which has high academic standards and has been taking an active part in student exchanges between provinces. Will it also see 30 per cent of its funding cut off?

● (1450)

[English]

Hon. Walter McLean (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member's question I can assure him that in the adjustments which are to be made to the Open House Canada Program they will be done bearing in mind the commitment to the objective of the program, which includes both equality and regional balance. I can also mention to him that these will come into play next year. With regard to his concerns about his region, a project before me has been approved and information will be in his hands early in the new year.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. It has to do with the fact that yesterday Canadians learned from media reports that Canada is giving up its leadership role in the abatement of acid rain. During the election campaign the Prime Minister promised to deliver on acid rain. I would ask him whether he agrees with his Minister of the Environment that Canada should now give up on its global role in combating acid rain, in the interest of the North American region.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, contrary to giving up our role with regard to acid rain, yesterday I communicated with the President of the United States and indicated that I wanted acid rain on the top of the agenda when I meet with him in Quebec City on the seventeenth of March.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

LEVEL OF EMISSIONS CAUSING ACID RAIN

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, it is good to hear this from the Prime Minister. I would urge him to have a chat with his Environment Minister so that they can get their messages on the same wavelength. In view of the Prime Minister's answer, will he now assure Canadians that his Government will pursue the commitment made with the provincial Ministers of the Environment that Canada will cut its acid rain emissions by 50 per cent by 1994? Is that the policy of his Government?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Yes it is, Mr. Speaker, and with hard work and honourable negotiations we hope to bring about better success than we have seen in the past. It is a major problem for Canada, the pollution of the