

Oral Questions

1986, the Prime Minister promised a comprehensive program for youth in that fiscal year. Is this to be another of the Prime Minister's typical promises, one which will lose the Government yet more credibility?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know that my hon. friend is having difficulty absorbing the reality just set out that since September 17, 1984, youth unemployment has dropped by 4.3 per cent or 4.4 per cent; that some 840,000 new jobs have been created—

Mr. McCurdy: Where is the program?

Mr. Mulroney: Hundreds of millions of dollars are being expended specifically on programs devised by the Minister. There is hope, progress, and prosperity returning for the first time. Consider that there is more than a 4 per cent reduction in unemployment. The Hon. Member ought to be very proud of that on the one hand, and congratulating a remarkable young Minister of Youth on the other.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POLAND—FAMILY REUNIFICATION—ISSUANCE OF EXIT VISAS

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last week the Hon. Member for Parkdale—High Park and I met with Mr. Tadeusz Mlynczak, Deputy Chairman of the Polish People's Republic. We discussed such subjects as how cultural ties could be strengthened between Canadians of Polish heritage and the citizens of Poland. The main subject discussed was the problem of exit visas and family reunification.

The Secretary of State was in Warsaw last month. How can relations between Canada and Poland be improved while, at the same time, bringing some pressure on the Polish Government to grant exit visas more quickly so that families can be reunited here in Canada?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for his question and for his interest in family reunification. I discussed that matter when I was in Warsaw. There are officials of the Government of Canada now in Poland discussing the conclusion of a consular agreement that would allow us to make more regular progress on family reunification questions. That is a priority of the Government which I know is shared by Members of the House.

• (1450)

CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

REVIEW COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It concerns the annual report of the Security Intelligence Review Committee which was tabled today and which was extremely critical of the Security Intelligence Service and, in particular, the Counter-Subversion Branch.

The report states that too many Canadians are targeted for investigation by the Counter-Subversion Branch. The Security Intelligence Service has over 600,000 files on Canadians, over 30,000 in the counter-subversion area alone.

The report states that personal freedoms and privacy are seriously threatened. Rather than taking immediate action to protect the rights of innocent Canadians, the Minister is now proposing that another review to review the work of the review committee be implemented.

Would the Minister tell us whether he is prepared to take immediate action to adopt the recommendations of the report of the Security Intelligence Review Committee immediately in order to ensure that the rights and freedoms of individual Canadians are maintained?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious I agree with the recommendations of the SIRC report. I think they have done an excellent job for myself and for all Canadians. That is why I announced this morning the establishment of an independent review team to take a look at the recommendations contained in the SIRC report, and CSIS management and policies, with particular emphasis on the civilianization and counter-subversion concerns raised in that report.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, we do not need another review. We need action by this particular Minister.

Mr. Gauthier: Right.

Mr. Nunziata: It is obvious that this particular Minister is afraid to take action. He appears to be Ted Finn's puppet.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): The report states, and I quote from page 37:

—CSIS is expending money and effort on too many counter-subversion targets and it is intruding on the lives and activities of too many Canadians—

It is intruding on the lives and activities of too many Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Nunziata: That is the report. The review committee makes recommendations.