

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Mr. Speaker, there will be brochures printed and available to all those wish to have them, including the unemployment offices throughout this country.

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I would like it better if I knew they were going to every household.

The regulations concerning child care under the new UI amendments create a situation where if you cannot find child care, if you cannot get leave and you quit your job because you cannot get that child care, you will not get UI. The government is forcing parents to settle for untrained, unskilled and unknown child care.

I would like to ask the government what would the family caucus and child care advocates have to say about this? How can quitting to ensure the protection of your children be called voluntary quitting and have the parent not eligible for UI?

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Mr. Speaker, the preamble to that question is erroneous and I think the hon. member knows that. The officials of the Canada Employment Centres will review each case and if there is just cause, the people will receive unemployment insurance benefits. That is the assurance of the minister and the government.

• (1440)

For the hon. member to be spreading these fears around is totally irresponsible.

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[*Translation*]

### MONTREAL ECONOMY

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Finance.

Montreal's economy is in a terrible slump, with an unemployment rate of 14 per cent, 27 per cent of the labour force out of work and 21 per cent of families living below the poverty line.

Why did the government not agree, as requested by the city and the province, to participate in a municipal infrastructure reconstruction program that would stimulate the economy and create jobs?

[*English*]

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Mr. Speaker, I know the hon. member and his party are talking about handing money to municipal infrastructure programs.

I would like to remind the hon. member, because he was a member of the government in 1982, that it had a municipal government infrastructure program and cancelled it. It was cancelled because it said it was not the responsibility of the federal government. I remember that very clearly. I am sure he does also because we were in the House together at that time.

There is a modest infrastructure program, due to the fiscal situation that we find ourselves in, that was announced by the Minister of Finance in December. I can tell the hon. member that those discussions are ongoing with the provinces and announcements will be made in due course.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, the program we had during the last recession was kept through that recession period.

If the government really wanted to create jobs, stimulate economic growth and reduce the deficit it would initiate such an infrastructure program. Poverty in Montreal and elsewhere in Canada will not be reduced by part-time, minimum wage jobs with no security and no future.

Why is the government not taking steps to promote quality jobs with decent salaries so that young couples can start families and properly take care of them?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend surprises me with his solicitude for Montreal. When we had a bill on pharmaceutical legislation before the House that would create thousands of new jobs in Montreal and provoke over \$1 billion in new investment, my hon. friend voted against it.

My hon. friend says quite—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.