

by the Hon. Mitchell Sharp. I think it would be proper for Parliament to consider that report and for a future Government to act on it.

TASK FORCE REPORT

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Prime Minister could tell us when that task force report that he referred to will be tabled in the House.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to table it very soon. The delay cannot be more than just a few weeks. I certainly want to see it tabled well before the middle of June, but I cannot give a precise date. I will take notice of the question and will attempt to answer it at the beginning of the week.

* * *

PETROLEUM INCENTIVES PROGRAM

PURCHASE OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURED OFFSHORE DRILLING RIGS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

[*Translation*]

Two offshore drilling rigs are now required on the East Coast. This project could create 1,000 new jobs in Canada. Could the Minister inform the House why the Government is maintaining a tax system under which oil companies can obtain subsidies to purchase offshore drilling rigs in Japan or in Korea?

Why use the Canadian taxpayer's money to create jobs abroad, when we can build rigs right here in Canada, in Lauzon, Quebec or Saint John, New Brunswick?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hon. Member for asking his question in French, but I did not really grasp what he said, and I am not sure whether it is something that concerns my Department. If it does, I did not understand every aspect of his question. I think he asked a question about Government funds being used to support a project to purchase required equipment abroad instead of doing so in Canada. I had the impression, but I may be wrong, that the Hon. Member was referring to a program that is administered by another Department, and not by mine. If he is agreeable, I am prepared to take his question as notice and provide an answer later on.

Oral Questions

USE OF SUBSIDIES TO CREATE JOBS OUTSIDE CANADA

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain my point again, this time in the other official language, for the Minister's sake.

[*English*]

The program I am referring to is the PIP grant program. The Minister is responsible for employment. He is a Minister of the Crown. In terms of his responsibility for jobs, does he agree with the policy which makes it possible for companies in Canada to obtain subsidies through the taxpayers of Canada to purchase equipment which, if produced here rather than abroad, could mean 1,000 jobs for Canadians? In other words, should Canadian workers through the tax system be providing subsidies to create jobs in Japan or Korea when those projects could be carried out, to name only two places, in the region of Quebec City or Saint John? Why are we not using Canadian taxpayers' money to create jobs for Canadians instead of abroad?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The question was better in the other official language.

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it is true the question is a bit more comprehensible in the other official language than it was in French. It still deals with a program which is essentially the PIP program, which is not within my area of jurisdiction. If the Hon. Member is asking whether it is appropriate for the Government of Canada to expend public funds to create employment in Canada, the answer is yes. We are already doing that. We are spending over \$1 billion of government funds this year for direct employment creation within the Canadian economy. If he is asking whether I support the PIP program as it is applied by the Minister responsible for it, the answer is that up until this point, yes I do.

Mr. Broadbent: So much for Canadian jobs.

REQUEST THAT SUBSIDIES BE USED FOR CREATION OF JOBS IN CANADA

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister, who has ultimate responsibility for this program. I am sure the Prime Minister is aware of all the details of what goes on in his Government. The Government's PIP program enables corporations to get a subsidy from the Canadian taxpayer if they purchase equipment abroad, even if that equipment is available in Canada. Does the Prime Minister agree that the Canadian taxpayer should be providing subsidies for the creation of jobs abroad, especially when those jobs could be provided here in Canada, whether in Quebec, New Brunswick, or shipyards in British Columbia? Does it not make sense to abandon those subsidies for the creation of work abroad, and ensure that any subsidy used for the creation of jobs is used in Canada when the product can be produced in this country?