

funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, through its bilateral branch.

These projects are in the following countries:

Haiti and Trinidad

* * *

[English]

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURN

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, if question No. 3,482 can be made an order for return, this return would be tabled immediately.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Is it the pleasure of the House that question No. 3,482 be deemed to have been made an order for return?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Text]

COMMUNITY AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Question No. 3,482—**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):**

In the past three years, by constituency, what was the distribution of funds on community employment programs and youth employment programs and, of the distribution, what funds were foreseen for projects for the native peoples and what amount was actually allocated to such projects?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS FINANCING ACT, 1977

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Monday, March 22, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen that Bill C-97, to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977, and to provide for payments to certain provinces, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Federal Transfers to Provinces

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to resume where I left off last evening discussing Bill C-97, which comprises a unilateral decision of the federal government and the Liberal cabinet to cut funding significantly to hospitals and to post-secondary educational institutions. Between ten o'clock last night and three o'clock today, an important event occurred: the Standing Committee on Public Accounts met this morning.

As we discuss today the government's decision to cut out close to \$6 billion worth of funding to hospitals and post-secondary educational institutions, we hear government speakers indicating strongly that this is necessary, that the federal government needs to cut out its expenditures for health care and post-secondary education.

Officials from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources appeared before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts this morning. Their testimony clearly and unequivocally indicated that the import compensation program this year will cost Canadian taxpayers \$850 million that it does not have to. Let me repeat that amount, \$850 million. All it would take to retrieve that \$850 million for the taxpayers of this country is a little common sense.

We discovered in the public accounts hearing this morning that it was possible to buy a barrel of Mexican crude oil this month for approximately \$32 Canadian. It is possible in this country today, Mr. Speaker, to buy an equivalent crude, from the province of Saskatchewan in particular, for something less than \$24 a barrel. You would think in a nation characterized by common sense that that difference would lead oil companies to buy the Saskatchewan crude and the saving would be passed on to the Canadian consumer. However, when we look into the situation we find that the Government of Canada in its wisdom has decided to give the multinational oil companies \$17.50 compensation for importing Mexican crude. The end result is that the cost to the oil companies to import that crude is \$9.03 a barrel cheaper than Saskatchewan crude.

• (1510)

Those of us from that region of the country know that the separatists are out there armed with that knowledge and they are walking the streets telling everyone, including the kids in grade school, about that and saying that this is what confederation is all about. This is a government which will subsidize an oil company to the tune of \$9.03 a barrel to import Mexican crude while at the same time shutting in Alberta and Saskatchewan crude, because no one in their right mind would buy it if it is \$9.03 more expensive. The difference is paid by the taxpayer.

We asked those officials this morning, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the amount of shut-in western crude exceeded 100,000 barrels a day. The answer was yes. We asked how many barrels are imported per day. The answer was 400,000. Then we asked whether, if the 100,000 barrels of Canadian crude