

Oral Questions

Mr. Broadbent: We agree with that. I just want to test his commitment to the idea.

Given that the Prime Minister during the election campaign promised a minimum tax on the rich, which he has not brought in yet, and since we know that we can get a minimum \$2 billion simply by restoring taxes for the rich to where they once were, why will he not bring in tax reform now to get that additional revenue and spend it now for the poor, instead of just talking the way he is in the House?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I don't know what has come over my hon. friend who has a tradition of reasonableness in the House, and relative objectivity in dealing with problems. I know that he has disappointed a great number of Canadians with the malice he has shown in the last couple of days. I want to tell him that that kind of conduct is unbecoming and unrewarding.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: My hon. friend knows it. He knows full well that there will be consultation in regard to the introduction of tax changes that simplify and render the tax system more fair in order to achieve some of the objectives of equity that we are all seeking.

I hope my hon. friend will drop the malice and come out in support of a Government that wants to do more for those people in our society who genuinely need and deserve the help. That is where the NDP should be standing up, to agree.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**ACID RAIN—CONTROL OF AUTOMOBILE EMISSIONS**

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport to whom I have given previous notice. It concerns the announcement made in the House yesterday by the Right Hon. Prime Minister when he informed Canadians of his impending meeting with the President of the United States and the fact that acid rain would be high on the agenda. Before that meeting takes place, will the Minister of Transport announce his decision on introducing control of automobile emissions as part of the over-all Canadian strategy to control acid rain emissions in a better manner?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the House earlier, I am expecting a consolidated report arising out of the public hearings that were held here in Ottawa, public hearings that the former Government chose to hold in private. As soon as I get that consolidated report I will consider it and take appropriate action arising therefrom.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the hearings were completed a couple of weeks ago, does the Minister see any difficulty in making his decision and announcing it in January, before the proposed meeting between the Prime Minister and the U.S. President?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get locked into a definitive time-frame but I will certainly act upon the report as soon as I see it. It will naturally have to be a decision that will be taken in consultation with my cabinet colleagues.

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THE ECONOMY**REVIEW OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT**

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. As reported in this morning's *Globe and Mail*, New York bankers have said that the Government's approach to foreign investment will have little impact on the level of investment flows, and that FIRA itself was not the bogymen that kept away foreign investment. Will the Prime Minister admit that he is wrong to think that abolishing foreign investment review will help create the jobs that Canada needs?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I don't suppose the Hon. Member would want me to argue or quarrel with the opinion of an investment banker or take particular pride in statements made by investment bankers on the other side of the concept. We will continue to work hard to build a stronger economy because we believe that, in part, the attraction of capital will create jobs that our fellow Canadians need.

I think we should all recognize modest indications of progress. The Bank of Canada bank rate dropped 40 basis points to 10.16 today. I think that is an indication of how well things are going.

GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, since it is not Canadian bankers or the bank rate that the Prime Minister has relied on, but foreign investors, will he now concede to the House that his strategy of trying to charm New York investment with speeches and legislative changes designed to weaken our economy is not working? Will he change that strategy?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I don't know what it is about the NDP, that they see problems under every rug. We are attempting to conduct ourselves in a civilized manner with our friends. We make no bones about that. We are trying to create jobs. There are 1.5 million Canadians crying out for work and we are trying to