

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know that my Department and other Ministers of the Government have been working toward a human resources development plan, a new labour market strategy. That labour market strategy and many of its components will be discussed at the First Minister's conference next week.

One of the issues that we are particularly addressing is the increasing number of older Canadians who have been dislocated from their jobs and have had to face disruption because of new technologies. That is a growing concern in the country and one which we think must be tackled, in any new labour market strategy, in a way that it was not tackled in the past.

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### ENERGY

#### EAST COAST ENERGY LIMITED

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, the Government backbenchers may be offering kudos to the Government, but the women of Canada are rating it zero because they are the worst losers in this unemployment fiasco that we have seen announced by Statistics Canada today.

My question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, in the absence of the Prime Minister. In light of the non responses we have had from the Government on other issues, I hope we can get some answers on this one. East Coast Energy Limited of Halifax—which I am sure is a subject of great importance to a number of Members on the government side—has exceeded its \$10 million credit line with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and is being forced to sell off its only major asset, a one per cent interest in the Venture gas field. What is the Government prepared to do to protect the hundreds of small investors across Nova Scotia who stand to lose their life savings?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that that question should more properly be directed to the Minister of Finance, since it falls within his jurisdiction.

**Ms. Copps:** I am looking for guidance from the Chair. Is that a redirect?

**Mr. Speaker:** A question, if you have one.

**Ms. Copps:** I am sorry that the Minister of Energy knows nothing about this particular venture.

#### USE OF PETROLEUM INCENTIVES PROGRAM GRANTS

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, this particular company, East Coast Energy Limited—in case the Minister is not familiar with it—

**Miss Carney:** I'm familiar with it.

### Oral Questions

**Ms. Copps:**—has received over \$1 million in Petroleum Incentives Program grants. Will the Deputy Prime Minister ask the Prime Minister to order a public inquiry into the use of those PIP grants, to assure the people of Canada that their money has been properly spent and accounted for?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** No.

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[Translation]

### UNEMPLOYMENT

#### YOUTH—INQUIRY ABOUT MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, again my question relates to unemployment, more particularly unemployment among young people which has soared from 16.7 per cent to 19.3 per cent within a single month, between December and January.

Mr. Speaker, is the Government now prepared to shelve its destructive cutback policy and create lasting jobs for the 20 per cent of Canadians—one out of five of our workers is a youth—who are without jobs as a result of the policies of the previous Government, policies which this new Government continues to follow?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the simple answer is no. We are not about to abandon any economic policy that was announced on November 8. I believe that policy has been well received by a wide range of Canadians. It has been the right way to deal with both the unemployment problem and the structural problems that are facing the country. There is no question in the minds of the Government as well as of many Canadians that there will be a very clear, positive effect on unemployment over time and there will be many less people unemployed once the impact of that policy is felt.

[Translation]

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

I have just returned from the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area where the government's policies are not very popular, mostly among the young. In view of the fact that some of them have to make do with \$156 a month and that fewer than 30 per cent—

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** I must make the point at some time today that preambles and questions are getting longer. Will the Hon. Member please put a question immediately?