

Orals Questions

auditor, can the Minister advise the House how quickly we can expect to have this mess completely cleaned up? Does the Minister intend to involve the Chiefs at each step along the way in that process?

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we intend to involve the Chiefs, Councils, and the Indian people of Manitoba. Second, it is hard for me to put a date on it. I met with the independent auditor last Thursday. He left to go to Germany on Friday and he is returning Sunday. I will see him as soon as he gets off the plane.

We have no intention of fooling around with the matter. I indicated at the outset that we are going to rectify the situation with all due speed. We want to do it well, and that is why we are proceeding in the way we said we would proceed.

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CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY**WAGE SUBSIDY FUNDING OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I am sure she is very supportive of and recognizes the contribution of non-profit and volunteer groups in this great country of Canada. Since she has now had plenty of time to consider the Colleen Stewart memo from Toronto, will she now reject one of the recommendations referred to in the memo which is to reduce the wage subsidies in the job-readiness stream used by non-profit organizations from 100 per cent to 50 per cent? Will she today say in the House that she will keep the wage subsidy at 100 per cent and not reduce it to 50 per cent which would kill off many of those volunteer groups?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we have been very pleased with the co-operation we have received from both the non-private and the private sectors in developing the Canadian Jobs Strategy. We think it is very successful. The proof is that we have so many more applications for that program than there have ever been for any other program. We will continue to involve both the private sector and the non-private sector in the programs under the Canadian Jobs Strategy in the future.

SIZE OF WAGE SUBSIDY

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, for once I would like to get an answer from the Minister. I would like to ask her very specifically whether or not she will reject the recommendation made in this memo that the wage subsidy be reduced from 100 per cent to 50 per cent. Will she reject that recommendation, yes or no?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we will be only too glad to look at

any contributions that the private sector wants to make to this program. We do not have a majority of the projects presently being awarded to the private sector. In fact, in the major program, Job Development, some 73 per cent of the projects go to the non-private sector, to non-profit organizations and to educational institutions, and they are all funded 100 per cent.

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FOOD AND DRUGS**DISCOVERY OF DIOXIN IN FOODS**

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. What is the Minister's response, or the response of his Department, to Dr. Davies' report made on behalf of the International Joint Commission in Toronto recently relating to dioxin found in ordinary, everyday foods of Canadians?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member, I have stated in the House before that the samples Dr. Davies used and the very narrow base upon which the findings were conducted have been seriously questioned by a number of other scientists. As well, I would like to tell the Hon. Member that the Department, through HPB, has been determining levels of dioxin for at least the last 10 years. All studies indicate that there has been no increase in levels.

The monitoring systems and machinery we use enable us to identify trace amounts. We will continue to do exactly that kind of work. I can state very clearly that, from our findings, the food-chain is not at risk. Should there be any difficulties discerned even with that system, we will obviously take action.

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[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION**COST OF PRIME MINISTER'S TRIP TO PARIS**

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Today's newspapers report that spring in Paris for the Prime Minister and his retinue cost over \$500,000. We also know that the tab for meals and hotel accommodation was close to \$329,000.

I should like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister how he can possibly justify such expenditures while expecting Canadian families to accept a lower indexation of family allowances?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, one of the highlights of the Prime Minister's trip with certain Members of the Liberal Party and