

Oral Questions

budget, which has already been cut by \$300 million since 1984? Is that what he is suggesting?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I wish my colleague from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East had been here yesterday to listen to the whole speech. I said that, as Government, we must share the load with the private sector, with the various interest groups, I did not say that they would be on their own to develop programs, with the support of the Government. And the results speak for themselves. I am referring to the results of the employment strategy, and I must commend my colleague for putting up the kind of sound structure about which you had been dreaming for years.

● (1420)

[English]

TRAINING OF WORKERS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I read his entire speech this morning. While I was not here yesterday, I read it several times and he did say: "Practical training and job experience lead to permanent jobs". Was the Minister really serious when he made that kind of statement? Does he not realize that there are thousands of workers in Canada who are trained, who have had experience but still cannot find jobs? Doesn't he realize—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the Hon. Member please put his question.

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, can my hon. colleague tell me that without training these workers would be working today?

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AGRICULTURE

ASSISTANCE FOR GRAIN PRODUCERS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister also on the matter of assistance to Canada's hard-pressed grain farmers. The Government did indicate in response to a question from me yesterday that the money would not be coming from existing agricultural programs. I would like to clarify two other potential sources. Will the Prime Minister give assurances that the funds for spending to aid our grain producers will not come from cut-backs in other federal programs nor will the provinces, already hard-pressed, be asked to contribute?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the funds will be into the hands of the farmers who

need the help. I know my hon. friend will support what we are trying to do. They will not come from existing agricultural programs but from within the framework.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the Prime Minister had for lunch, but we are not getting very far today. I acknowledged that the Prime Minister said yesterday that it would not come from agricultural programs. We are asking for assurances that the funds will not come from existing federal programs, social programs, other programs, housing programs, and we are asking for assurances that the Government of Canada with all its resources will not be asking the provinces to pay.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I get the impression that my hon. friend is doing everything he can to prevent a Government from helping farmers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: It is going to cause trouble.

Mr. Mulroney: Why throw all these road-blocks at a Government that is trying to help farmers? What we are saying is that we intend to meet on Thursday and again next week. We are devising a program that will be within the fiscal framework which will not diminish existing agricultural help to farmers, and we are seeking a method to put additional funds in the hands of the farmers. I would hope that my hon. friend will stand up and support a Government that is supporting farmers.

REQUEST FOR IMPOSITION OF CORPORATE TAX

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister did not answer the Leader of the Opposition nor has he answered me today or yesterday on funds from other sources or from the provinces.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): One more try, Ed.

Mr. Broadbent: I will try a third question, Mr. Speaker. Considering that his friend, Ronald Reagan, has increased corporation taxes by \$120 billion in the United States and that we have 79,000 profitable companies that are not paying a cent in tax, will the Government of Canada, instead of cut-backs in other areas and instead of going to the provinces, bring in a reasonable corporate tax to get a minimum of \$3 billion in additional revenue and use that money to aid Canadian farmers?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if he waits until the Budget maybe he is right.