

*Oral Questions*

**Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that the chair of that standing committee will probably be reporting that the standing committee would like the minister to review the report, Sir.

The minister is presently co-chairing a human rights conference in Ottawa this very weekend. Human rights is about people who do not have a voice and yet this conference was by invitation only.

Given that many groups and individuals were denied access to this conference, will the minister explain whether this was censorship by mistake or by design?

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)):** Mr. Speaker, the doors were open; tickets or passes were not asked for. Indeed, there were many seats available for those who wanted to come and join us.

We did send out over 500 invitations across the country. We wanted to get a cross section of NGOs, academics, business leaders and people from the labour movement. We believe that we can do better. That is why we came together. We have important challenges facing us. They are new and emerging challenges. We are trying to build a partnership, a coalition. We are trying to build Canadian solidarity. I believe the member will recognize that, at least, today is the beginning. This opportunity to examine human rights in a very open manner will certainly mean that more people have a better understanding of what actually is taking place and what takes place around the world, as well.

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[Translation]

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Quebec has lost 80,000 jobs in the past six months. According to the economists, there will be further job losses next year, including at least 40,000 in Quebec, for a total of 127,000. Could the Deputy Prime Minister tell the House today what measures he intends to take to find jobs for 127,000 Quebecers who will be jobless in 1991?

[English]

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the full range of our job programs are available to Quebec. I am very proud to say that under Bill C-21, on which we will have some announcements to make in the next month or so, I am sure that the hon. member will be pleased to see the kinds of things we will be doing. For example, we have a number of programs for older workers, for social assistance recipients, and so on. I hope that he will applaud what we will be able to do.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[Translation]

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard):** The following is a supplementary question, and it is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Does she realize that in the Montreal region, some schools have not given exams in the past two weeks because some students don't have anything to eat, as a result of the policies concerning poor families which this government has created in the past six years? Exactly what does she intend to do, not through Bill C-21, but specifically for poor families in the Montreal area who can't feed their children? What does she intend to do?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, we have many programs that deal with poverty. The program designed for poor people under Bill C-21, the Canadian training strategy, will help fight poverty in Montreal and other Canadian cities.

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[English]

**THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. About 20 minutes ago, British Columbia's Minister of the Environment, John Reynolds, resigned as a result of some statements he made when he appeared before a parliamentary standing committee here, last Tuesday. He indicated, before the standing committee, that there would be full public hearings into Alcan's Kemano II project. When he returned to British Columbia, he attempted to reverse himself and has now subsequently resigned.