

REQUEST FOR SPEEDY RELEASE OF REPORT

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, the taxpayers have spent some \$1.6 million on this study, and we have waited for it for a total of four years. The Minister has only released the part that relates to the fluoride emissions. What about other contaminants that have been studied, such as mercury, mirex, and PCBs, that have been found in the bloodstream of Indians on that reserve? Can the Minister assure us that she will not keep the remainder of the report under wraps any longer and will release the rest of it to the House immediately?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I suggest that anyone who has worked with researchers is well aware of the problem often associated—too often, unfortunately—with getting a report out of their hands. I think we should not read any bad faith or other problems into it.

The first part is concluded. We released it immediately. We will do the same thing, and continue to press for a report on mirex, PCBs, and mercury, which are the other three contaminants that Dr. Selikoff and his team are studying at the Mount Sinai school in New York.

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THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT JOB-CREATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Talking about ridiculous, I would say that he is the one in this House who is ridiculous. The Minister says the Government has no effect on interest rates; however, 92 per cent of savings goes toward government consumption. Unemployment in the United States has gone down, whereas it has risen in Canada. While the Government has introduced some excellent tax breaks for successful businesses, what will it do to create new employment in new enterprises, to get the country going and create jobs for Canadians?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to hear the tribute the Hon. Member is paying to the measures that the Government has already announced in the last two Budgets. It is nice to hear this from the Conservative side, and I hope he will have a word with their finance critic to convince him of the value of the measures that the Government has announced.

As far as the creation of new jobs is concerned, I remind my hon. friend that I introduced measures, in the last Budget particularly, to help small and medium sized businesses. The simplification of the taxation field will generate about \$150 million in tax savings for that very important sector of our economy.

I also remind him that in the area of support for small business, the investment tax credits and the research and

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development tax credits are in operation at the present time and available to those who want to get into business. As well, the incentives and support provided by the taxation sector in Canada compare quite favourably with the incentives provided in almost any other industrialized country. In the last Budget we provided \$2.4 billion worth of tax incentives to the private sector. That is the sector from which the jobs will be created fundamentally in this country.

We have several billions of dollars in expenditures in terms of job training, direct job creation in the public sector, and for temporary jobs, in order to alleviate the high level of unemployment that we know at the present time. However, it will fundamentally be through the private sector that the jobs will be created.

Mr. Fennell: What the Government is missing is confidence on behalf of investors and entrepreneurs to start new businesses.

EFFECT OF INTEREST RATES ON NEW EMPLOYMENT CREATING ENTERPRISES

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, the fact that interest rates have risen another one-half per cent frightens people off. What will the Minister do about interest rates to provide security and create new enterprises in Canada?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, interest rates have come down quite significantly over the last two years, from approximately 22 per cent to 11 per cent. So there has been a very significant decline.

My hon. friend should not panic because there is a slight increase in the interest rates taking place at the present time. For instance, he knows that we have put forward a proposal for mortgage rate interest protection in the housing area. This proposal has been extremely well received by the housing industry, and I hope to be able to come to the House with a specific Bill in the next several weeks which I hope will have broad and strong support from the Opposition so that the legislation can come into effect and, indeed, provide the type of security that Canadians wish, and for which the Hon. Member is asking. This will provide a great deal of security to Canadian home owners and potential home buyers concerned about increases in interest rates.

As far as the general business sector is concerned, the Hon. Member knows that we expect that, both in Canada and the United States, in spite of temporary increases in interest rates there will be a decline in interest rates over the year.

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YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In two weeks the