

only applicable to one group of civil servants and not all, including Armed Service retirees?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, we have offered early retirement incentives to various groups in the Public Service depending on the particular circumstances of a group, in keeping with our workplace adjustment policy which will be ongoing throughout our workplace reduction exercise from now until 1990-91.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, is this particularly geared to replace the cut unemployment insurance benefits, and does the Minister think it is fair to offer this program only to executives and not to all employees, including Armed Service retirees?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, each case is judged on its own merits. There has been a program like that for senior civil servants and also one for cleaners in the Department of Public Works. Each case will be reviewed on its own merits. What we are looking for are equity and justice for all.

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ENERGY

SUGGESTED DISCOUNTS FOR MOTORISTS PAYING CASH FOR GASOLINE

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, my question is directed to her Parliamentary Secretary. In various parts of the United States certain oil companies are giving discount prices to motorists who pay cash rather than use credit cards. In view of the Minister's advocacy on behalf of motorists, will she ask Canadian oil companies to consider adopting this policy to help motorists who are already paying excessive prices?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has said many times, and has made it very clear, that she does not interfere directly in the market-place. No more would she suggest that a company do that than she would suggest that a haberdasher charge less for a suit when customers pay cash rather than use credit cards.

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FINANCE

GRIFFITH MINE LAY-OFFS—TAX TREATMENT OF WORKERS

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who, on March

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25, defended his decision to deny tax relief to laid off workers of Griffith Mine on the grounds that substantial employment opportunities exist with major employers in the area, citing Campbell Mines. Since the government-commissioned Anderson report on the impact of the lay-off and a survey of the major employers indicate no significant hiring plans, would the Minister now reconsider his decision and grant that tax relief or, failing that, will he make public the criteria under which he plans to deny it?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the information I have received is that 117 of the 300 who were laid off from Griffith Mine have already found alternative employment. The criterion under which these decisions are made is if the sole industry in the town is closed down. That was the case in Gagnon but it is not the case in Ear Falls.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, the Minister must surely be aware that the vast majority of those people moved to get work. Will he explain to the House of Commons, the people of Ear Falls, and the Griffith workers, why there was no consultation such as he promised in his November 1984 economic statement?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member asked a question about some of the provisions that are available. I should point out to him that the Income Tax Act already provides a number of provisions for assisting displaced workers and I will list these for him: the sheltering of severance payments in RRSPs, the application of pension income deduction against supplementary pension benefits, the deduction of moving expenses, and the tax exemption for a certain type of—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE

ALLEGED SOLICITATION OF FUNDS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker my question to the Deputy Prime Minister deals with the recently acquired habit of Progressive Conservative Party representatives to solicit funds from civil servants. Why does the Government, which has failed to keep its promise to grant political right to Federal Civil Servants, allow this appeal for funds to be made in the Government's own offices? Could the Deputy Prime Minister explain to us why this double standard, why he has failed to intervene to forbid this appeal which is probably made in violation of Public Service regulations?