

Oral Questions

Mr. de Jong: Is that all you can come up with, Harvie?

Mr. Broadbent: You're really sick.

Mr. Orlikow: You need a new researcher, Harvie.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PRESIDENT OF LIONS
INTERNATIONAL

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw to the attention of Members the presence in the gallery of his Honour Judge Brian Stevenson, President of Lions International.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Speaker: I also wish to draw to Members' attention the presence in the gallery of Mrs. Ann Hanson, Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[*Translation*]

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

QUEBEC'S SHARE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who is certainly aware that over the past five years, direct federal spending in the various Quebec regions amounted to nearly \$1 billion. The Minister of Finance is aware that the federal Government invested \$453 million under the Industrial and Regional Development Program, \$264 million under the Eastern Quebec Plan, and over \$200 million under the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board. Could the Minister of Finance explain why, for the next five years, federal spending in the various Quebec regions will be cut by nearly 50 per cent or over \$500 million? Why this reduction from \$1 billion to \$500 million in these five Quebec regions?

[*English*]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not understand the figures to which the Hon. Member has just referred. There was an announcement today, I believe, which provides for a substantial increase in regional development spending.

If the Hon. Member looks at the record of the Government over the last little while he will see that there has been a significant increase in regional development spending, not only

in the Province of Quebec but in other parts of the country which we want to ensure have access to funds for regional development.

That which the Hon. Member just said is quite contrary to my understanding of the situation.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I certainly challenge the Minister of Finance to check the figures I have just quoted. He will have the clear demonstration that direct federal spending in Quebec will be cut by at least 50 per cent as a result of the grandstanding announcement which the Prime Minister is making today in Quebec.

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATIONS

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance how he can justify that 50 per cent reduction when we know that the Prime Minister is only bragging and that in fact, \$1.2 billion were injected in Western Canada, that Atlantic Canada will get \$1 billion while Quebec will only obtain half a billion of federal funds when it got \$1 billion during the past five years? Why such a reduction and why resort to deceitful propaganda?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism) and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Mr. Speaker, some do brag and others got an awful cropper. If the Hon. Member looked at the figures, and I have them in hand, Mr. Speaker, he would realize that the commitments made by the federal Government in Quebec under its regional development programs are comparable. I would be embarrassed if I were a Liberal to rise today in this House to say that this Government has done less in Quebec. With those commitments, Quebec will get under regional development and other departmental programs 28 per cent more than what was previously spent. Those are the facts.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

LANDS ADJOINING KAHNAWAKE INDIAN RESERVE—INDIAN
CLAIMS—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Ricardo Lopez (Châteauguay): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development).

Mr. Speaker, after the unfortunate events last week at the Kahnawake Indian Reserve, my constituents are now very concerned about further developments.

Mr. Speaker, the chief of the Kahnawake Indian Reserve sent a letter to eight municipalities in the riding of Châteauguay, in which he claimed that eight municipalities adjacent to the Kahnawake Indian Reserve belong to the Seigneurie de