

Oral Questions

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, very unfortunately, it is because the government of Her Majesty in Great Britain decided to refuse any agreement with Canada. I met again, I think it was late October, in London with the minister for Great Britain, literally pleading for an agreement with Great Britain to increase the pensions they pay to their former residents now living with us in Canada, and to have reciprocity on pensions. That was rejected without any possibility of compromise by the United Kingdom. I regret it very much.

We have since proceeded to signing an agreement with Greece and we have signed with the United States. That will help a lot of Canadians, both here and those having to live and work in these countries. Unfortunately, Great Britain has completely refused any possible assistance to its people living with us in Canada.

INTERNATIONAL TAX AGREEMENTS

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of National Revenue. In December an international taxing agreement was signed whereby nations could tax pensioners from other nations, and exemptions were made up to \$10,000 for all countries, except for British pensioners living in Canada. I wonder why there is this discrimination against British pensioners living in Canada as well as the blow they received about reciprocal pensions?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I think the same situation applies. We have bilateral agreements with various countries. I think the answer to that is, in substance, the same as the answer given by the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

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[Translation]

AVIATION INDUSTRY

MANPOWER TRAINING—NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
GOVERNMENTS AND INDUSTRY

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It concerns co-ordination of a manpower training program in the field of aeronautics where there is now a shortage of specialized labour and where a demand for 13,000 workers is expected by 1983. Since the province of Quebec now accounts for 50 per cent of the labour force in this industry, does the minister intend to draw up a planning agreement between both levels of government and the industry to ensure that we can provide a qualified Canadian manpower, not only in Quebec, but throughout Canada, where we will need 13,000 additional workers in the next few years?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, the hon. member points to a very important area of skill shortage in this country. We have responded to it with two initiatives. First, we have signed an agreement with the aerospace industry to develop long-term planning for human resource needs and to introduce, right now, a number of new training initiatives. We are also beginning negotiations this summer with the provinces to look at the whole area of training agreements so that we can begin to allocate our resources and target them at those areas where high skills are needed. We understand that the shortage of workers in this area is very critical to the economy of the country. We hope that these initiatives will provide solutions. We look forward to the co-operation of the provinces in this very important achievement.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. FLIS—COMMENTS OF MR. RAE

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Madam Speaker, my point of order relates to the question period. It refers to the comments made by the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae) when he said that when 30 clowns get together, something funny is bound to happen, or something to that effect.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I am afraid that does not constitute a point of order.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY
INSTRUMENTS

Seventh report of Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments—Mr. Beatty.

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NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

TABLING OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO REPORT OF
PARLIAMENTARY TASK FORCE

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, in order to facilitate members in the debate today and tomorrow, I should like to table at this time the government's response to the report of the Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations.