

by the Secretary of State, who said it would be announced tomorrow. Now, considering recent events, including the stated intention of Gaz métropolitain to get into the petroleum industry, could the Minister confirm to the House that he has had endless calls from the Petroleum Club and, more specifically, that there have been strong pressures on the part of the multinationals to stop a new oil company from entering the market in Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I hasten to reassure the Hon. Member that no pressures of the nature he has referred to have been brought to bear on me. He must bear in mind that the Gaz métropolitain offer he referred to was never put in a final written form. It also had certain conditions and it was \$40 million or more less than the Ultramar offer.

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AGRICULTURE

BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS

Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. He will be aware that there has been a great deal of confusion regarding the level of beef and veal imports into Canada over the past few years, particularly highly subsidized imports from the European Economic Community. Can the Minister advise the House what those levels were for 1985 and what our Government will be doing to protect our valuable beef industry in 1986?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I welcome that question because it gives me another opportunity to demonstrate this Government's continuing support for the agriculture industry and, more specifically, the cattle industry. The Minister of International Trade and I announced today that we are going to invoke the Meat Import Act in 1986 in the same way we did 12 months ago for the year 1985. The heavily subsidized EEC beef which came into this country in 1984 amounted to some 50 million pounds. We invoked the Act, negotiated levels, and reduced that to 23 million pounds. That is a real measure of support for the Canadian cattle industry.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to say to the Minister that this may continue on statements.

Some Hon. Members: More!

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EMPLOYMENT

1986 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and

Petitions

Immigration who today announced her summer employment program for youth. Bearing in mind that \$205 million was spent in 1985 on youth employment, how does the Minister have the gall to claim that this has been increased to \$210 million in 1986 when \$30 million is being used to subsidize the census without any guarantee of youth employment?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to confirm that some \$210 million will be spent during the summer of 1986 on employment for young people across the country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1500)

Miss MacDonald: We estimate, Sir, that that will involve some 118,000 young people during the summer months. I would hate to think that the Hon. Member for Windsor-Walkerville would try to deny young people the opportunity of taking part in the census which is a very important socio-economic part of the operations of government and, indeed, the country.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

FUNDING INQUIRY

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, I am as interested in summer employment and the census as is anyone else. However, I do not understand, and I would like to know, how the Minister can stand in her place and defend a scam through which money is taken away from the Canadian Jobs Strategy and transferred to the census without creating a single new job or a single new training place. Those are the facts.

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, last year when the Government announced Challenge '85 the Hon. Member was very critical. I must tell you, Sir, that despite that criticism Challenge '85 was a tremendous success. It produced over 101,000 jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, if Challenge '85 was that kind of a success without the co-operation of the Hon. Member, just think how successful Challenge '86 will be with his co-operation, which I invite.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of eight, presented by Hon.