

*Oral Questions*

I think that the hon. member is about a year ahead of himself, and one month before the budget takes effect on April 1. I find that rather amusing.

The hon. member would have a reason to attack the government by March 31, 1992 if, in fact, that goal had not been set, but let's wait for 12 months before he attacks that. That is silly.

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Madam Speaker, only a puffed up minister of this government would tell 1.4 million unemployed men and women in Canada to wait a year before we say we are going to act.

I ask this minister who is not cold-hearted but who is heartless whether the government, in the face of these new unemployment stats that shatter the projections of the minister only 10 days ago will restore the \$100 million cut to the Canadian Job Strategy Program.

**Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, when we talk about the Job Strategy Program, I think all the members of this House should remember that when this government brought in Bill C-21, which allowed the government to put a lot more money into job training which was one of the essential things that Canadians need, the opposition blocked it. The Liberal opposition blocked it. The Senate blocked it.

As a result of that, we did not have access to moneys for practically a full year. Now that the bill has been passed, the money spent on job training in Canada during the coming year will be over \$3 billion. That is an increase of \$500 million over last year, and an increase of \$900 million over two years ago. I think the government is doing something about it.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Madam Speaker, my question is also to the Deputy Prime Minister.

In the province of Ontario, a traditional tower of economic strength for our country, 500,000 people are now out of work, 72,000 Ontarians having lost their jobs in February alone.

I ask the Deputy Prime Minister this question. Will his government now admit that its economic policies are wrong, or will he simply let the other minister do as he

has done all the time this morning, evade the legitimate questions being asked on behalf of Canadians who are looking for work?

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the hon. member that there are 485,000 more people in Ontario working today than there were in 1984 when this government came to power. So there are a lot more people working in Ontario.

That does not minimize the situation of those who are out of work. We feel badly about that, but we also believe, and believe most sincerely, that we have produced a budget and are setting an example for industries and other governments. Last night Newfoundland accepted the challenge. With its budget it knows that it has to trim and keep wage increases down, and keep expenditures down. It is setting a good example and we hope the other provinces will as well.

We will be coming out of this period of economic difficulty by mid-year and we will start to grow, create more jobs, meaningful jobs, full-time jobs, on into the foreseeable future.

That is what this budget is all about. What this budget will do is lead us to recovery in this country.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Madam Speaker, the Tory version of modern math will not find jobs for my constituents.

*[Translation]*

I should like to direct a supplementary to the Deputy Prime Minister. Last year Ontario lost 153,000 manufacturing jobs as a result of high interest rates, the value of our dollar, and other mistaken policies of the Conservative government. When will the government launch an economic recovery program for Ontario regions in dire need of assistance, like the eastern Ontario riding I represent? The regions of Ontario need help. When will the government implement that kind of program?

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has every reason to say that we have problems. This is why we must come up with the right solutions for the unemployed. Again the hon. member is suggesting the government should spend money that it does not have and that taxpayers are not prepared to contribute so as to create artificially a situation which in the end will be