

Oral Questions

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona, NDP): Mr. Speaker, while the debate continues I wonder if the minister could tell us what the Canadian position is with respect to how the debate should proceed.

Will the Canadian government be looking for ways to do this that meet some of the concerns of the minister? Will the Canadian government, when it gets to Halifax, and in other international fora, be putting forward proposals for creating a financial world order in which the power of speculators to destabilize national and regional economies will be contained?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the principal purpose of the Halifax summit, which is to take a look at possible or necessary reforms to international financial institutions, primarily the Bretton Woods institutions, is going to be first and foremost on the agenda. That will be a wide-ranging discussion and it would not be incumbent upon me to limit it here.

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TRADE

Mr. Ray Speaker (Lethbridge, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, sugar beet producers are concerned that negotiations to open the U.S. border to Canadian sugar exports are being put on hold pending the Revenue Canada investigations into allegations of sugar dumping by the U.S. and Europe.

My question is for the Minister for International Trade. Can the minister assure the House that negotiations are still being pursued even during the Revenue Canada investigations?

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister for International Trade, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the discussions that were held on March 16 were part of an ongoing process of consultation with the United States. When we have had a chance to review further the United States information and material given to us on March 16, we will again be consulting the United States.

Mr. Ray Speaker (Lethbridge, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister.

Could he indicate what approach the government is taking with regard to sugar? Is sugar being negotiated as one commodity alone, or is it a commodity being negotiated with a package of goods relative to the GATT?

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister for International Trade, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the question of sugar is being negotiated alone.

[Translation]

LA RELANCE JOB SEARCH PROJECT

Mr. Paul Crête (Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources Development.

The federal government has just granted a subsidy to the job search project *La Relance* in order to help young people with no income find a job. Until now, the Department of Human Resources Development had funded only the program for young unemployed workers.

How can the Minister of Human Resources Development explain his department's decision to give financial assistance to *La Relance* when it withdrew funding from *Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi* because that centre dealt with young welfare recipients?

• (1455)

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we did not withdraw funding from the Carrefour Jeunesse. In fact the department is supplying something like \$200,000 worth of project support this year.

As far as the project Relance is concerned, we are providing an additional \$20,000 at the end of the year to make up a backlog of cases. I am not sure why the hon. member would be so critical of any attempt to help young people in the province of Quebec.

[Translation]

Mr. Paul Crête (Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup, BQ): Mr. Speaker, am I to understand from the minister's answer that, from now on, he intends to support all groups pursuing the same objectives, whether they deal with people on unemployment insurance or with people who do not receive unemployment insurance benefits?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as I have said in the House before, in the spirit of the new federal philosophy of decentralization where we want to give far more responsibility to our officers at the local region who make decisions about their priorities, we will be responsive to those kinds of decisions.

It indicates a new kind of federalism. We want the programs to be tailored to the actual needs and priorities as determined by people working in those communities.