

Oral Questions

country in the past? When are they going to start turning job-creation funds over to people who really need them?

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will recall that yesterday the Minister of Employment and Immigration underlined the fact that the Canadian Jobs Strategy is working well. We are spending \$6.3 million every day, and some \$450 million has been designated in this area. She also indicated that the private sector had been invited to participate and the result was that there were very positive job-creations.

Let me also remind the Hon. Member that under Challenge '86, 64 per cent of all funds designated there go to the non-profit sector, so that they are included in this total effort.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador): Mr. Speaker, the memos from the Government's own bureaucrats contradict exactly what the Government is saying. The fact is that half of the money is going to job-creation, and even less to the public sector. When are you going to start listening to ordinary Canadians? When are you going to direct job-creation funds where they should be going?

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, the Minister yesterday underlined the importance of monitoring, the importance of listening, and indicated that in any good management that is an ongoing process. The Minister has assured the House that she is listening and is monitoring. The result is that there is positive job creation.

* * *

APARTHEID

SOUTH AFRICA—REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER CONTACT COMMONWEALTH LEADERS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Given that the leaders of the Commonwealth have all received the Eminent Persons Report, and given that the conditions in South Africa worsen every single day, would our Prime Minister be prepared to contact those leaders by telephone, seek from them their agreement on more severe sanctions, and then offer to go to London and attempt to persuade Margaret Thatcher, on behalf of all of the leaders, that she ought to come onboard now rather than wait until millions of people have died?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister of Canada has begun the process of contacting directly the other leaders of Commonwealth countries who will be involved in the meeting

in early August. I think that it is the experience of all of us who have had to deal with the Commonwealth process that we are more likely to achieve positive results meeting together in one place, in the family of the Commonwealth, than we are at long distance, or by giving any appearance of some members ganging up on others.

CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, no one here would deny that it is better if everyone could meet. Does he not recognize that the conditions are now emergency conditions? The retaliation by the Government of South Africa requires immediate response. Would he not accept that it might be helpful to try the method we have suggested in the hope that it might work?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think what is at issue is effectiveness, not necessarily immediacy. It may well be that taking the time to consult privately, quietly, in the traditions and the privacy of the Commonwealth, will prove to be more effective than a measure that might, in the immediate aftermath of another brutal action by the South African Government, be immediately tantalizing. We have to look at the end result we are seeking, which is to stop apartheid.

* * *

[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NEGOTIATIONS PERTAINING TO CHOICE OF OERLIKON-BUHRLE MACHINE TOOL WORKS OF SWITZERLAND FOR CONTRACT

Mr. Pierre H. Cadieux (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 1986 the Minister announced that the Oerlikon-Buhrle Machine Tool Works Company of Switzerland had been selected to supply the Canadian Forces low altitude air defence system.

Since the Minister promised that the final decision would be made only after further negotiations, can he tell anything more to the House about these negotiations and the program, considering the fact that we are about to recess for the summer?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the Hon. Member and the House that the Government has approved the purchase of a low altitude air defence system for the Canadian Armed Forces.

This kind of news will be welcomed by the CAF and our NATO allies. I expect the contract will be signed before the end of this month.