

Oral Questions

been fulfilled. If the Prime Minister is serious about his support, as he just stated, will he authorize the restoration of grain shipments to Russia and release the funds already committed to implement the initiatives announced last June.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, Canada among the leaders of the countries of the G-7 has the second highest per capita assistance to countries of the former Soviet Union, including Russia, second only to Germany.

Germany's large numbers come from the fact that there was a special capitalization program in the federal republic to pay for the removal of 350,000 Russian soldiers who were on their territory. On a per capita basis, Canada's assistance to the former Soviet Union, including Russia, exceeds that of all other G-7 countries, with the exception of Germany as I have indicated. So my friend's question is somewhat surprising.

• (1435)

In fact many of the G-7 leaders are suggesting to their legislatures and their Parliaments that they raise their contributions and the nature of their programs to match those of Canada, which on a per capita basis, put together as a package, would represent a very significant infusion of technical assistance, agricultural assistance and market reform possibilities.

My friend refers to President Yeltsin's visit in June. We have lived up to every one of the commitments that we have made. My friend mentions the Yeltsin Democracy Fellowships as not having been honoured. I met in my office two weeks ago with participants in the Yeltsin Democracy Fellowships and they were very grateful. They came from Russia.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): What about the grain shipments?

Mr. Mulroney: No, my hon. friend mentioned the Yeltsin democracy fellowships. Unless I made a mistake and these were not young Russians standing in my office. They were there under the aegis of the Yeltsin Democracy Fellowships and very grateful to Parliament and the Government of Canada. In fact one of them specifically asked that I convey his affection and best wishes to the member from Winnipeg.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, on Friday I raised a question regarding two cases of sexual harassment in the Public Service in Halifax and was told to refer them to the President of the Treasury Board. I am doing so to the Acting President of the Treasury Board.

The final report on this case has been out for over a month. It found sexual harassment and so I ask: What will this minister do to ensure that these men are justly punished?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board is well aware of the case. He has indicated to the House that sexual harassment is absolutely unacceptable in any aspect of the Public Service and actions are now being looked at. It is an active file on the minister's desk and the appropriate action will be taken.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I would be more reassured if I had not been told today by the investigations conciliation officer of the Public Service that the conciliation process which is, as the minister says, under way will not, and I reiterate will not, deal with sanctions.

Again I ask the minister what sanctions will be applied so that the message of zero tolerance, which I do not necessarily dispute, is at least credible to the people who perpetrate these actions?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board has said on several occasions, and he meant it sincerely and it is reflective of the government's policies, that the appropriate action will be taken.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, representing front line workers in unemployment insurance offices, today released a booklet outlining what working people should know about changes to the UI act.

The booklet outlines the hassles workers claiming benefits are going to have to deal with. Could the minister or whoever is responding tell the members of this House how he will be providing Canadians with this type of factual information so that those who must apply for UI will clearly know the rules?