

*Oral Questions*

11 days later, there are 1.450 million Canadians out of work. Why are there more Canadians looking for a job now than on the day he won the election?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in excess of 100,000 new jobs have been created. There are new and strong indications of investment and recovery.

My hon. friend, having been a Minister of Finance, knows of some of the time it takes. We have put in place an energy agreement with Newfoundland—Labrador, as well as another important energy agreement with western Canada, that will throw off many employment opportunities. We have begun a new relationship of civility and co-operation with the provinces to launch new job creation projects.

I believe that the stage has been set for a rebirth of confidence and new job-creation possibilities that involve the entire country, and that will do honour to this Parliament throughout its life.

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[Translation]

**EMPLOYMENT****SITUATION OF YOUNG UNEMPLOYED**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Prime Minister has mentioned a number of programs that, although they were announced some time ago, have yet to be implemented. In September, the Prime Minister and his Government cancelled a special program called First Chance, a billion-dollar program that would have given 100,000 young Canadians an opportunity to acquire experience on the job. Today, 505,000 young Canadians under 25 are looking for work, far more than on election day.

My question to the Prime Minister is this: Is he going to stop making promises to Canadian youth and start doing something for young Canadians?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the Opposition is aware, in Regina the Minister of Employment and Immigration announced a job creation program of historic dimensions and of particular interest to Canadian youth, and I think we are already seeing the results of this program. I certainly agree that the unemployment rate is too high in Canada. It is too high today, it will certainly be too high tomorrow as it was too high a year and a half ago. It is a major problem for all governments and for all levels of government. I can give my honourable colleague the assurance that we are loyally and, I trust, honourably, all the Members of this House, working with all governments to wipe out unemployment. As I said before, I agree unemployment is too high, and we are going to make an effort unique in our history to bring unemployment down in Canada, because our young people truly need jobs.

[English]

**REQUEST FOR CREATION OF JOBS**

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister will understand if I remind the House of his promise during the course of the summer and before, of jobs, jobs, jobs.

**Mr. Deans:** Tens of thousands.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Tens of thousands of jobs, overnight, once his Government took power. The Prime Minister has been in power for over seven months. Today he did not blame the past, as he is sometimes inclined to do, and I am glad to see that. However, would he give the House the assurance that he will start fulfilling those promises that he made to Canadians when he was in opposition and during the election campaign? Will he produce more jobs because that is the underlying reason for any economy in any country?

● (1420)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition will readily acknowledge, as sustained by any subjective data, that indeed, as he indicated, there are tens and tens of thousands of new jobs that have been created since September 4. That is an absolute fact.

**Mr. Deans:** That has always been true.

**Mr. Broadbent:** That has been true since 1933.

**Mr. Mulroney:** There is the voice of 17 per cent.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** He was at 17 per cent in 1933, and he is still there today.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deans:** Pretty soon the unemployment will match our percentage.

**Mr. Mulroney:** We have been creating jobs. Interest rates have been declining. There is a strong rebirth of confidence in the private sector in job creation.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Where?

**Mr. Mulroney:** There are tremendous new possibilities emerging out of complex and, I think, very effective energy sector negotiations that took place. There are new prospects in Atlantic Canada. All of this is coming on stream in a new sense of harmony which a Budget will reinforce, and we believe that Canada can do infinitely better than the 1.6 million jobless which the Liberals left on snow banks. We can