

Oral Questions

provinces and this Parliament are under no obligation not only to protect, but also to promote both official languages. This is important for us as members of the linguistic minorities, that is, for anglophones inside Quebec as well as francophones outside Quebec. If the Prime Minister of this country could not convince the premiers to include not only the protection, but also the promotion of our linguistic duality, why did he not take it upon himself to include in our new Constitution the obligation for this Government and this Parliament of Canada to insure not only the preservation, but also the promotion of our linguistic duality?

[English]

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I do not understand the basis of the Hon. Member's question, because I do not think there is any question of the commitment, as far as the federal Government and the Prime Minister are concerned, in respect of the preservation and promotion of the official languages of the country.

All I can simply say is that we will be judged by our record in this regard—and I think we will be judged favourably—by the Canadian people and by history.

Perhaps the Hon. Member is suggesting that we should revert back to the old system of the federal Government intruding itself, as under his former Leader, Mr. Trudeau, who had a great way of knocking the provinces about. We want to move forward in a very co-operative way. We want Canada to work together as a team. We want Canada to progress.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Premier Vander Zalm has been appearing on BCTV promoting a federally supported job-creation program and claiming that he needs to pass repressive labour legislation to make this federally supported program work.

Does the Government of Canada support the Vander Zalm proposition that repressive labour legislation is necessary to make federal-provincial job-creation programs work?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, clearly that is a provincial matter. It was answered by the Minister of Labour yesterday in the House.

I invite the Hon. Member either to pay attention to answers in the House or to read *Hansard*.

FEDERAL POSITION

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The working people of British Columbia and Canada are watching the answers to this. Clearly the Deputy Prime Minister missed the import of the question.

I want to repeat it in a different form. Does the federal Government believe that repressive labour legislation is required to make federally supported job-creation programs work?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the same question and the same answer, and I invite the Hon. Member to read the answer in yesterday's *Hansard*.

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MUNICIPALITIES

COSTS OF RENOVATING INFRASTRUCTURES

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Yesterday the Minister of Finance, in answer to my request that the Government reconsider its refusal to fund municipal infrastructure which would create 280,000 jobs, said that he would not do this because it was outside federal jurisdiction.

The Government knows that under a previous Liberal Government, prior to 1979, there was a similar program which was finally terminated but was there when the need was there.

Since the President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities said that if the senior levels of Government did not participate in the program it could result in a \$1,000 increase in the water bills of ratepayers, does the Government think it is a fair burden to put on ratepayers for something which will benefit the whole economy?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, with regard to funding of municipal infrastructure, it is true the previous Government brought in such a program. It also terminated such a program because of the complaints of the provinces at the time about interference in municipal jurisdiction.

Also, in the 1970s we did not have the enormous deficit we have today which was left to this Government.

RECOVERY OF EXPENDITURE—STUDY FINDINGS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister not aware of the macro-economic impact study prepared by Informetrica for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities which indicates that the federal Government would recover most of its expenditure for such a program through extra tax revenue and reduced