

Oral Questions

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary for to the same minister.

The government's policies are causing harm across the prairies. Winnipeg at one time prided itself as being the gateway to the west. It is now, under this government's policies, turning into the gateway to hell. Just think, there were 27,000 people unemployed in Winnipeg as of the end of last month. There are three times that number receiving provincial and municipal assistance.

When is the government finally going to present Winnipeggers with a plan to get these people back to work?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member would agree that the budget strikes a balance in trying to deal with the deficit while at the same time trying to help those sectors, particularly the manufacturing and processing sectors. The hon. member should know that in terms of agriculture, there is no government that has been more generous to the farmers of Canada, particularly those farmers in western Canada, to deal with the very serious difficulties caused by the trade war.

There are a number of positive measures in the budget which will improve the lot of many Canadians and, most important, will provide some hope and optimism for jobs. We have to get to the fundamentals. We are addressing those. We have low interest rates, low inflation, a positive investment climate. We have provided some assistance to the manufacturing and processing sectors which is a very intensive job-creating sector.

I think the hon. member will recognize that there is a mood of change out there, a mood that is becoming more optimistic and confident about the future.

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[*Translation*]

DIPLOMATIC CORPS SECURITY

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General and concerns the attack on the Iranian embassy in Ottawa yesterday.

Did the government receive advance warning of this attack? If not, why not?

[*English*]

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I want to express on behalf of the government and, I believe, all Canadians how annoyed we are at the attack. We regret the injuries to Ambassador Lavassani and other occupants of the embassy.

I can respond to my hon. friend that at the present time I am informed that our response was as prompt as possible under the circumstances and that arrests have taken place.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): I have a supplementary question for the minister, Mr. Speaker.

Several hours in advance of the attack on the embassy here in Canada, there were attacks on embassies in the U.K., Norway, Sweden and Germany. Clearly we do have CSIS agents in the U.K. Why was CSIS not advised here in Canada that these attacks had taken place and therefore possibly have been able to act and to avert the situation as it did happen?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my hon. friend's comments. As my hon. friend and the House can understand, there will be a full investigation as to the timing of these events, as to when they took place in the various locations around the world. Obviously that exact information will be known once the investigation is completed.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): A supplementary for the minister, Mr. Speaker.

CSIS has a budget of \$217 million and 2,000 employees. CSIS has been very active in filming PSAC demonstrations, harassing the Inuit over low-level flights and, in fact, during the gulf war in following innocent Iraqi and Iranian Canadians.

The minister says that there will be an investigation. Will he make the results of that investigation public and will he tell the Canadian people why this organization did not know this information, particularly when it was well known in Europe?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend, I am sure, made an allegation that she would want to think about before she repeated it, the allegation that CSIS is filming PSAC demonstrations and harassing native people. I have no knowledge of the fact that that is in any way true. If my hon. friend has any information, I would hope that she would make it available to me immediately and I will follow-up on it.