

present Minister of Supply and Services initiated the studies to ensure that he got to the bottom of this issue.

Mr. Riis: Too late.

Mr. Mazankowski: Not late, as soon as it became available to him.

Mr. Riis: It's taxpayers' money we are talking about.

Mr. Mazankowski: If the Hon. Member reads the report he will find that it is stated that the reliability of the financial data used in the preparation of forecasts has been a problem for some years.

Mr. Broadbent: You are supposed to change it.

Mr. Mazankowski: There was inherited—

Ms. Mitchell: Do something about it.

Mr. Broadbent: They are blaming the Liberals for this.

Mr. Mazankowski: There was an inherited—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mazankowski: I think I have a right to respond to this.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister, of course, has the right to respond. He also has the right to the courtesy of a hearing by other Hon. Members.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, there was inherited a system which, as a practice, established internal budgets in excess of voted amounts. It is clear that that practice should have been abandoned. The fact of the matter is that as soon as this came to the attention of the Minister he took the appropriate action and the corrective action is being implemented.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

FRENCH TELEVISION COVERAGE OF EVENTS DURING FRANCOPHONIE SUMMIT

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Communications, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Speaker, I heard in Quebec that Francophone journalists with the French CBC network were planning to walk out during the Francophonie Summit. As you know, the journalists have been without an agreement for two and one-half years, and I would like to know whether the Minister is aware of this and what he intends to do to ensure, beforehand, that French-speaking Canadians will be able to see and hear this important historic event, the Francophonie Summit on television?

Oral Questions

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I heard the same rumour, and I know the parties have been negotiating for quite some time. As I indicated last night at the end of a long debate, last year 11,000 collective agreements were signed in Canada, and 94 per cent were signed without a single day lost to strikes or lock-outs.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this particular dispute will be resolved in the same fashion. I would urge the parties to reach an agreement, and I would be very sorry to see Canadians suffer the consequences should a strike be called this week.

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HOUSING

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL PRESENT PROGRAM DURING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE HOMELESS

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister responsible for Housing.

Next September 14, 15 and 16 in Ottawa, we will have the privilege of hosting the International Conference of the Homeless, where the theme will be: building together for the future. The Minister will agree that the problem of the homeless is also a social problem. Has the Minister drafted an action plan for this conference and if so, could he give us an overview of the plan?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the Hon. Member. I heard her intervention during Statements by Members today. I think that which she pointed out was accurate and very much in keeping with attitudes in the House on the situation.

I cannot specifically reply to her question. I will take notice of it to the Minister in charge and ask for an early response.

SOCIAL HOUSING ON INDIAN RESERVES

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, I will address my supplementary question to the Deputy Prime Minister. We have a problem of our own in Canada. This morning I met with members of the Assembly of First Nations and was made aware of an interdepartmental problem regarding funding for social housing on reserves.

The matter is between the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Minister knows that there is a shortfall of almost \$8 million flowing from the changes in the Canadian Jobs Strategy Program. On May 11, my colleague, the Member for Cochrane—Superior, asked a question of the Minister of Employment and Immigration who said he would