

Challenge '86 created 335 jobs and represented \$535,000 in investments. In my constituency, it is vital for young people who want to complete their schooling to work during the summer. As they live far from major centres, they must often go elsewhere and become self-sufficient. Challenge '87 is a concrete example of an initiative taken by our Government to improve the employment prospects of young people. Indeed, even at a time of budgetary restrictions, our Government is aware that the future of Canada belongs to young people, as clearly shown by Challenge '87.

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[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT'S PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS POLICY

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I continue to cherish the principle that, except in time of war or other national emergency, a Government in a democratic society exists to serve the citizens, not the other way around. Let us put this principle to the test in the Government's payment of accounts policy. This policy, as interpreted for me by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie), states that the valid date of an invoice is the date that invoice is received by the Government. It is not the date it is postmarked, but the date it is actually received by the Department. However, the invoice is considered to be paid by the Government on the date the cheque is issued. It is not considered paid on the date the cheque is received by the individual or company which rendered the service, but the date issued. Thus the Government wins both ways. What about the citizen? "Heads you lose, tails you lose. So sorry."

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POLITICAL PARTIES

NATO—LIBERAL PARTY'S POLICY

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of all Hon. Members a matter of great concern to Atlantic Canadians. The people of Atlantic Canada are very disturbed by the inconsistent statements made by the Liberal Party on matters affecting defence. At the Liberal Party Convention in November the Liberals called for an end to our NATO commitments. Where does that leave Canada's sovereignty?

Are the Liberals so naive to believe that a country is sovereign if it has no means of defence? Where does that policy leave the thousands of Atlantic Canadians who depend on NATO for employment? A severance of our NATO

S.O. 21

obligation will cost Nova Scotia thousands of jobs. The former Liberal defence critic admits that policy conflicts with Canada's NATO commitments, but where is he? Now demoted. The Bay Street boy is back and he will stay at the back. It is time for him to come clean with Atlantic Canadians.

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● (1415)

THE ADMINISTRATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Kitchener (Mr. Reimer) seems to blame the population of Quebec and immigrants for the problems which the Government faces. The Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) implies that it is the media which are largely to blame for the perception of the Government, mainly because most people who cover Parliament live in Ottawa. The Prime Minister's Press Secretary, Bill Fox, alleges that it is because federal government employees might be Liberals who are responsible for the problems the Government faces. The Government should realize where the blame lies and where the buck stops.

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FINANCE

BENEFIT OF FLOW-THROUGH SHARES TO NORTHERN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, before the Christmas break in a debate on Bill C-23 the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), the finance critic for the NDP, rose in the House and called for an end to the flow-through shares program. In his comments he stated that flow-through shares benefit only the rich and do nothing for exploration and development in northern Ontario and Quebec. How misguided are those statements by New Democrats!

In fact, flow-through shares have created benefit to the people of northern Canada in terms of real economic growth. For instance, one company in my riding reported an impressive increase in volume. In the last half of 1984 it had an increase of 49 per cent. In the last half of 1985 it had an increase of 80 per cent. In the first quarter of 1986 it has had an increase of 100 per cent. This translates into more jobs and further development in the North, for the North. We can certainly see from the Hon. Member's statements that the NDP has no idea about the grass roots of the North.