

Oral Questions

gration. The Government has cut back on job programs specifically directed to the youth of this country—school to work transition apprenticeship programs like First Chance on-the-job training. Under the new Government, how long will it take before the economy can absorb the 454,000 jobless youth we are faced with today? Will the Minister take the House into her confidence and tell us what the Government will do for these young people?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member was not in the House earlier when I responded to a question from her colleague, the Member for Notre Dame-de-Grâce.

Mr. Allmand: That was about Summer Works.

Miss MacDonald: I would say that the plans with regard to young people will be announced within a couple of weeks.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker—first of all, Madam Minister, I was not speaking about students looking for a summer job, but about three quarters of our youth who are no longer in school, but on the labour market and without a job.

Madam Minister, you have not been straightforward with the Canadian people. You and your colleagues talked about seasonally-adjusted rates while I am speaking about rates which are not seasonally-adjusted, which show a loss of 11,000 jobs between October and December. What action has been taken to reduce this unacceptable level of unemployment?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, one thing about which I can be absolutely sure, when it comes to questions from Members in the Liberal Party, is that they will never recognize any good news when they see it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss MacDonald: I can understand that, given the fact that their standing in the polls continues to drop month after month. When you get locked into bad news like that, it is hard to change your mindset.

I would point out to the Hon. Member that, thankfully, the unemployment rate for youth has begun to come down and has dropped a full percentage point in the last month.

AGRICULTURE

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WHEAT VARIETY

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the representative of the Minister of Agriculture. Scientists at the Agriculture Research Station in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, have developed a new variety of medium hard wheat, HY320. Through some ten years of testing this variety has proven to yield some 30 per cent more than the Red Spring wheat hard varieties. It also appears that there are export markets for HY320. When can we expect HY320 to be licensed?

Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, I might point out that the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board is presently on government duty in Saskatchewan. I believe the Hon. Member has raised a point which certainly the grain producers feel is very important. I know that the approval procedure has the support of the Wheat Board, the Canadian Grain Commission, Agriculture Canada, and others. It is my understanding that the matter is now under review and a decision is expected very shortly.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

REPORTED UNITED STATES PLAN TO DEPLOY NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT CANADIAN BASES

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence who said that he did not know anything about the United States' plans to deploy 32 nuclear depth bombs in a time of crisis at Greenwood and Comox. Since the Minister now knows about the U.S. deployment plans, does he continue to argue, as he did last week in a radio program, that in fact Canada has no need to know and no right to know about U.S. nuclear deployment plans, and that Canada is in fact simply an extension of U.S. territory in nuclear matters?

Hon. Robert C. Coates (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it is nice to hear where Canada stands as a nation from an NDP point of view. I find it rather difficult to reconcile what the Hon. Member is saying to me in relation to a so-called leaked document in the United States with her statement that perhaps the NDP should now consider some common sense and reconsider their position as far as NATO is concerned.

With respect to the question, I want to say that the document to which the Hon. Member is referring is an old document that was conceived in 1975. It has nothing to do with consultation between Canada and the United States. I can assure the Hon. Member that if there are any plans in the future in relation to mutual defence between Canada and the United States, there will be consultation with this Government.

Ms. Jewett: Mr. Speaker, the Minister should resign.