

*Oral Questions*

I simply want to tell the hon. member that if she looked at the growth in foreign aid, ODA, she would find that the growth in that particular sector has been greater than the over-all program expenditures.

I think she should be the first one to understand that when we are engaged in fiscal restraint, all areas and all sectors are going to be affected. This sector has not been affected as negatively as many other sectors, I remind the hon. member.

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, my second question is for the Prime Minister on another foreign aid issue. In his absence I will direct it to the House leader.

Yesterday the Prime Minister met with ex-Soviet President Gorbachev and restated his position that the west must move quickly to help Russia. Today he announced that an aid package will be announced as part of the Yeltsin-Clinton summit this weekend in Vancouver.

We would like to know if the government will follow through on the commitment made here last week by the Prime Minister that would allow us to have a parliamentary debate on this subject either tomorrow or Friday so that a strong statement of support can be made by the Canadian people through Parliament before President Yeltsin arrives in Canada.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure through the negotiation process of the House leaders such a debate can be arranged.

The hon member, since she is so interested in this subject, may want to suggest the use of a Liberal opposition day for this purpose since the House time is being very compressed. I think that is clearly an opportunity that the Leader of the Opposition and the Liberal members can seize upon.

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**THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

The green plan promises that there will be an environmental assessment of every policy that goes to cabinet

for a decision and that the environmental implications will be released at the same time as the policy.

As the minister knows, the major policy statement of any government is its budget. Is the government making an environmental assessment of the budget? Will the environmental review be tabled at the same time as the budget in April, as promised by the green plan and by the Minister of the Environment?

• (1500)

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, obviously any policy initiative undertaken by the government takes into account the environmental impact. That is a general across the board policy of the government.

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** My supplementary question is for the same minister, Mr. Speaker.

The green plan is very clear that the environmental implications will be made public at the same time as the policy. It was not done for the 1991 budget; it was not done for the 1992 budget. I ask the Minister of Finance to be very clear. Will it be done for the 1993 budget, the last budget his government will release before it is defeated at the polls?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** The same answer, Mr. Speaker.

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**LESLIE JAMES BENNETT**

**Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General.

On last night's *Fifth Estate* program Mr. Leslie James Bennett expressed dissatisfaction with his treatment by successive Canadian governments with regard to allegations that he was a Soviet mole. Could the minister clarify the government's position on this matter?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I want to assure Mr. Bennett and the House that the Government of Canada believes that Mr. Bennett was never a KGB mole. I was struck by his request that we make a categorical denial or statement to that effect and I am pleased to have this opportunity today to put that on the record.