

Oral Questions

speech last night that he has assured the farmers that they will not be left holding the bag if the bottom drops out of the market for the product, would the minister not consider that the bottom has dropped out of the market so far as the cow-calf operators of Canada are concerned?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, we are bound by the stabilization act to stabilize the price of beef, and we will do that.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**SUGGESTED LIMITATION OF HIRING BY CONTRACT—
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the statement in the white paper that the government intends to keep the growth of the public service in the coming year to 1.5 per cent, and in view of the fact that some years ago when the Prime Minister announced a freeze on the hiring of public servants a large number of contracts were made by various departments with employees who were not permanent members of the public service, so that departments could get the people they needed, may I ask the minister whether he has given consideration to limiting the number of people who can be hired under contract by government departments?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the department will not be allowed to do indirectly what it cannot do directly.

[English]

Mr. Orlikow: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether, in line with the statement he has just made, he has put a limitation on the total amount of money allocated for payment of contracts to hire people in the coming year?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, every department's budget provides a certain amount for contracts, naturally; those amounts will certainly not be increased, in compliance with the policy announced by the government.

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MANPOWER**POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING FUNDS FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES
PROGRAM**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the President of the Treasury Board.

As the aim of the Local Initiatives Program is to invite the Canadian people to help create employment and fight effectively against unemployment; as much publicity was made to invite the population to submit LIP projects: as

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

the public responded positively to the appeal of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, as shown by the many projects submitted in Bellechasse, to mention only my constituency, which total \$25 million, as only one fourth of the budget was earmarked for this purpose, can the minister tell the House whether additional supplies will be allocated to the Department of Manpower and Immigration to subsidize more projects and follow the guidelines of the white paper, aiming at fighting inflation and particularly unemployment?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, when the budget was brought down last June, the Minister of Finance had then provided for an additional sum of several million dollars for LIP projects this year, and as a matter of fact, more money will be available for those projects this year than last year. But if the hon. member wants to know if we are going to add more money to the budget brought down by the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton last June, the answer is no.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary of the President of the Treasury Board.

As I always have taken seriously the government's policies regarding inflation and fight against unemployment, in view of the disproportion existing in the same budget mentioned by the minister for job creation through the Local Initiatives Program and the amounts allocated to unemployed persons, i.e. through the Unemployment Insurance Commission, may I ask the minister if he would urge his cabinet colleagues to reconsider that disproportion in order to face the unemployment problem more efficiently by allocating enough additional money to fund more projects?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, as I already said, we will be able to accept more projects this year than last year, but it is impossible, at this moment, to increase the amounts in this area under the current circumstances.

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[English]

BROADCASTING**REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE PRIME MINISTER NOT ALLOWED
TO BROADCAST SPEECHES ON EVE OF ELECTIONS**

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Communications. While the recent federal by-elections afforded good news for members on this side of the House, would the Acting Minister of Communications communicate with the head of the CBC, the CRTC and the relevant media bodies in this country and assure this House that in future no longer will the right hon. Prime Minister be accorded prime time on the eve of elections, be they general or by-elections, for so-called non-political speeches?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, it was perfectly clear at the time that the speech that was made was perfectly proper and in accordance with the rulings.