

Oral Questions

● (1455)

I find it difficult to understand why the responsibility of the shareholders should not be recognized in what is essentially a commercial problem.

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CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Mr. Bob Mills (Red Deer, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the budget is eliminating 45,000 public service jobs, with thousands from most departments.

Can the Minister of Foreign Affairs explain why CIDA is being cut by \$300 million but is only losing a ridiculously low 11 positions out of 1,241?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the hon. member that the cuts in personnel will be around 15 per cent.

Mr. Bob Mills (Red Deer, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the government said it would be cutting executives from the top of the ministries, not from the bottom.

Can the Minister of Foreign Affairs explain why the number of senior executives who earn over \$80,000 a year will be cut from 92 positions to 90 positions according to this year's estimates? Is eliminating only two positions the minister's idea of cutting from the top?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has looked at the document that has been published. I do not quarrel with him. I think the document is incomplete.

We are looking at a substantial reduction over a three-year period. As this is completed, taking into account the human element, he will see that the reductions will be by 15 per cent and will apply to senior officials in CIDA.

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THE ATLANTIC GROUND FISH STRATEGY

Mr. Derek Wells (South Shore, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources Development. There are concerns with the current TAGS appeal process. This has been acknowledged by the minister who committed a few weeks ago to quickly address the concerns of thousands of fishermen with the appeal process.

Can the minister report to the House on what concrete action he has taken to ensure that the appeals process is fair to all TAGS applicants?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon.

member both for the question and for the interest he has shown in this very important program to help the fish workers and fisher people in Atlantic region.

As a consequence of his representations and those of the member for Burin—St. George's a few weeks ago, the minister of fisheries and I last week established an independent review panel to provide a full, impartial, arm's length review of all TAGS applications for those that feel the program has not met their needs exactly.

As announced last week, the program will be up and running by the end of the month.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to again pursue the case of Bojan Inthavong with the minister of immigration. This young thug from my community participated in the murder of a 17-year old youth. He was ordered deported and two years later had an appeal. It was dismissed. During the interim he was given refugee status.

Now I understand that a judicial review may be forthcoming. I would like the minister to explain what is the value of a judicial review after a deportation appeal has been dismissed?

Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the judicial review has nothing to do with my department but it indicates there are certain individuals who flagrantly break the law and abuse the regulations.

It is precisely for that reason that we have Bill C-44. It is not the be-all-and-end-all but is one piece of legislation that tries to come to grips with individuals that abuse the refugee stream. It would allow the government to pull the individual from the refugee stream and move that individual into an immigration inquiry with subsequent deportation.

This side of the House not only wants to protect legitimate refugee claimants but also wants to rid the system of those who fraudulently abuse the system, making it worse for those who are legitimate.

Why does the Reform Party not support Bill C-44?

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Mr. Laurent Lavigne (Beauharnois—Salaberry, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence.

Last week, we learned that Charles Scott, an individual who openly admits to being a white supremacist, teaches hand to hand combat to soldiers of the Canadian Forces.