

Oral Questions

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would certainly beg to disagree very strongly with the statement of Mr. Haynes. In effect, the abandonment of the project at Cold Lake, for instance, was like the abandonment of other projects in the tar sands, resulting from the absence of growth in oil prices. This situation has occurred not only in Canada but in the United States and all over the world.

I remind my hon. friend that the same company, I believe, abandoned a project in the United States in which it had invested many hundreds of millions of dollars, around the same time. As a matter of fact I think it was a project which was ready to go into production and was to the tune of a couple of billion dollars. I cannot remember the exact figure, but it was a very large project. We have a situation where, all over the world, investment in the oil and gas industry has had to slow down quite significantly as a result of an absence of growth in oil prices.

* * *

EDUCATION**WOMEN'S ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT LOANS**

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. It also concerns the problems of Canadian women, many of whom cannot complete university and college programs because some provincial Governments, notably the Government of British Columbia, have tightened restrictions on eligibility for full-time student loans. This has had a particularly adverse effect on women. What action will the Minister take to improve federal loan assistance in such a way that it will not be vitiated by provincial action?

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I have already written to all provincial Ministers of Education, in particular to the Minister of Education of the Province of British Columbia, underlining the understanding of what happened in the House of Commons last June when Bill C-161 was voted on, that the additional amount of money, the \$60 million, would be passed on to students, especially students who needed it most, in particular, women. I have not yet received a detailed answer from the British Columbia Minister of Education. I have raised the issue with the chairperson of the Council of Ministers of Education, who is the Minister of Education of Nova Scotia. I propose to meet with him in the forthcoming weeks to make sure that we review the various initiatives which could be taken at the level of the Council of Ministers of Education to ensure that the understanding will be respected.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING EXERCISES**

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Prime Minister is supplementary to an earlier one asked by the Hon. Member for Northumberland. The Secretary of State for External Affairs ten days ago in Halifax reaffirmed Canada's commitment to NATO, yet today the Prime Minister indicated that he is not certain whether our full commitment of material and manpower to NATO should be made. In particular, according to *The Financial Post*, Canadians were not even able to participate in the full range of autumn exercises of NATO because of budgetary constraints. If we are fully committed to NATO, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicates, will he not supply sufficient funds so that our troops in Europe can at least exercise with our allies to provide some deterrent? Otherwise, they are worse than useless and might as well be brought home.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, obviously the Hon. Member was not listening to the question of his seatmate. The question was whether we would return to the 1970 or thereabouts situation. Therefore, the Hon. Member is perfectly unjustified in saying that I said that I was not certain whether our commitments should be fulfilled. Of course our commitments should be fulfilled. They are being fulfilled on the two-track. They are being fulfilled on our 3 per cent per year real increase.

An Hon. Member: They are not.

Mr. Trudeau: They are being fulfilled. The question was about something that happened 15 years ago. The Hon. Member is quite unjustified in saying that I said in my answer that our commitments should not be fulfilled. He is quite wrong, and I wish he would withdraw it.

Mr. Andre: A supplementary question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Brampton-Georgetown.

Mr. Andre: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**ISSUANCE OF UNILINGUAL FRENCH PARKING TICKET IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. It has been reported in the press that the Secretary of State is prepared, morally and financially, to support an individual in Whitehorse to fight a unilingual English parking ticket, up to the tune of about \$25,000. Would the Minister be prepared to give me the same support after obtaining a unilingual French ticket in the National Capital Region last week?