

Oral Questions

should also acknowledge that this is a group which has chosen to utilize a provision put in place by the previous Government. Indeed, I have received a number of supportive representations with respect to the project. I have also received a number of representations which are asking some questions. In this respect I have communicated with the executive director of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada. I am awaiting his final recommendation.

APPROVAL OF PROJECT

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain why he overruled his departmental officials and approved this project when Doctor Réjean Bouchard, the Co-ordinator of Animal Research, said: "Everyone who was consulted on the project walked away from it"? Is the Minister really trying to put these Dreamstreet people on easy street with \$10 million of Canadian taxpayers' money?

● (1440)

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am not so sure exactly where the Hon. Member is getting his information. The Hon. Member knows that this project, of course, is not approved by Agriculture Canada.

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[Translation]

YOUTH

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, Bill Fox said the Prime Minister did not know what he was doing when he promised a youth program before the end of the fiscal year, and the two ministers who are trying to outplay one another were saying they were setting up an advisory council that would advise them on the youth program.

Can someone, perhaps the Minister of State for Youth, explain to our young people how they can take the Government seriously when the Chairman of that famed advisory council admits he does not have much time to devote to it?

[English]

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You've been practising all weekend on that one.

[Translation]

Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, let me first congratulate wholeheartedly the Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville for his extraordinary effort in the French language.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[English]

Mrs. Champagne: If I understood him correctly, Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Champagne:—what the hon. gentleman wants me to repeat to him is that the youth unemployment rate is down by 2.5 per cent since the Government has come into power. We will continue toward—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A short supplementary question.

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, is it the intention of representatives of the Government either to repeat this silliness, or to lie to the youth of the country, or distort the truth to the youth of the country—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member knows that he cannot—

Mr. McCurdy: I retract that, Mr. Speaker. In order to get to the question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. Next.

Mr. McCurdy: Is it not possible—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McCurdy: Is it not possible for the Government to give a straight answer—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Next, please. I recognize the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board.

Mr. McCurdy: Is it not possible to get a straight answer from this Government on any question posed to it? I ask—

An Hon. Member: He's either deaf, or silly, or both.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

EARLY RETIREMENT PAY OFFERS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Is the Minister aware that the post office is now offering up to \$14,000 to about 100 executives to take early retirement as a replacement for the unemployment insurance benefits cut by the Minister of Employment? Does the Minister think that this is justified, and how is it that it is