

### Oral Questions

to an abandonment of the Conservative election promise of oil self-sufficiency by 1990? Has the Conservative government abandoned this election promise of oil self-sufficiency?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we have certainly not abandoned that goal. We hope that there will be some enthusiasm among members on the other side of the House in supporting some of the measures including measures that will be difficult in the first instance but which will be essential to bring Canada to a position where we are self-sufficient in oil and in energy.

● (1430)

#### PLANS TO ACHIEVE ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. The statement released today concerning the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources meetings this week with the International Energy Agency in Paris indicated that great stress would be put on conservation. In view of the fact that in committee last week the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicated that the government hoped to reduce dependency on foreign oil by 250,000 barrels per day through conservation techniques, can the Prime Minister indicate what the minister will say at the meetings this week in Paris, and what specific plans will the government introduce to achieve this goal, beyond hiking the price of gasoline by 30 cents or 50 cents in 1980?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources will be in a position to answer more detailed questions on his representations in Paris upon his return.

The hon. member will recall that we raised with the premiers the very real need for a combined approach by the federal and provincial governments to putting in place not only programs of conservation but also programs that will help to find substitutes for expensive oil. Federal government officials are now in direct contact with officials of all provincial governments in order to continue the work on detailed proposals for conservation and for substitution. This will be on the agenda for further discussion when the first ministers meet on December 17 and 18.

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### IMMIGRATION

#### SCREENING OF IRANIAN STUDENTS

**Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. A Southam News report has indicated an admission by John Sheardon, head of Canadian Immigration in Tehran, that only 15 per cent to 20 per cent of student applications for courses in Canada were likely to be screened. Can the minister tell me, first of all, if the news report is factual and, also, what his conception of screening entails?

[Mr. Foster.]

**Hon. Ron Atkey (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, there was a slight inaccuracy in the news report. All Iranian students coming to Canada from either Iran or the United States are subject to the usual medical and other screening procedures. If there is any suggestion of impropriety, alleged terrorism or other activities, of course they are then regarded as inadmissible.

There are, of course, other requirements that apply to all students no matter what country they come from, including proof of financial capability and proof of readmissibility to their home country, as well as valid acceptance from a Canadian institution. Those instructions have been communicated by officials in Tehran.

**Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Minister of Employment and Immigration why at the present time Canada cannot disallow the entrance of students until the situation with the United States embassy is over.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Atkey:** Mr. Speaker, each individual student application is treated on its individual merits. As a government, we have no interest in singling out Iranian students as a group. By virtue of the conditions which I explained a moment or two ago, some students will be inadmissible for those reasons. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that for practical reasons many Iranian students coming either from Iran or Washington would be inadmissible under the conditions I have stated. The government has no intention of excluding all Iranian students as a group just because they happen to be Iranian students.

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### EMPLOYMENT

#### PLANS TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES

**Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As the minister knows, today in the Atlantic region there is an increase in unemployment amongst those aged 25 and over. Can the minister tell us what his plans are to tackle this serious unemployment in the Atlantic region, especially amongst young people but in general amongst all people, because we have been suffering for so long?

**Hon. Ron Atkey (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, unemployment is always a problem in this country, but I am pleased to say that unemployment among young people decreased rather than increased in the last month. Nevertheless, it represents a serious and continuing problem in the Atlantic region. I would urge all hon. members to listen very carefully to the budget address of my colleague, the Minister of Finance, tonight.