

Oral Questions

the current year, we have a global budget of \$1.7 billion, an increase over last year's. Repeat, we intend to keep implementing community-based programs. Our philosophy, which has been applied since 1984, has proved to our satisfaction that this is the right way to do it, and that is why we will keep trying to create jobs and get through the recession. We have helped in the past, and we will continue to do so in the future.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Considering the Minister responsible for Montreal has utterly failed in his task, doesn't he think it is time to give the people of Montreal jobs and some real hope, and that a first step in this direction would be to get rid of the minister who is supposed to be responsible for employment in Montreal?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour and Minister of State (Transport)): Madam Speaker, once again it is clear that hon. members opposite are totally irresponsible, considering the fact that for over a year, they prevented Bill C-21 from being passed, legislation that would provide hundreds of millions of dollars for training and retraining. Today, those same members are complaining that workers are not able to adjust to the new technological jobs we have created, and I simply want to mention some recent measures taken by the federal government. We helped set up the training centre for the petrochemical industry. We helped establish the training centre for flat glass workers. We invested several million dollars in Canadair to update the stretch jet. We contributed \$40 million to a—

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am sure the minister will want to continue at some other time.

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[English]

ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the minister responsible for ACOA. Is the minister prepared today, as he suggested he might be yesterday, to identify or

otherwise characterize those 12 Enterprise Cape Breton or ACOA supported projects that are under RCMP investigation, a fact that he revealed also yesterday?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I want to tell my colleague that I welcome his interest in helping the part of Canada that badly needs help, but I would hope his interest would be more constructive and less prurient.

I told him frankly in answer to a direct question that there were RCMP investigations. If I were to give him any more details, he would be the first one to condemn me for lack of giving these people and these organizations due process.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, of course I hope the minister realizes by failing to provide even minimal information, he leaves a cloud over a good many projects supported by ACOA.

My supplementary is that on May 10, 1990, when some very serious questions were raised about the ECB support for Technitread, which is also now under RCMP investigation, the minister said if there were a mistake made, he would take full responsibility for it. There have been a lot of mistakes made at ECB and at ACOA.

Is the minister now prepared to take the appropriate ministerial responsibility for those 12 RCMP investigations; for Nsc Diesel, Celcom, Universal Metals, Arrow LM, Hi Tech Woodworkers, Atlantic Defence Industries and for that salmon farm, all of which, it would seem to me, Madam Speaker, are serious mistakes?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): I wish my good friend would fuel his questions with less vitriol and adrenalin and little bit more logic. He must know, being a very erudite individual, that these particular instances are under investigation. They do require due process of law. As the president of ACOA pointed out yesterday, some 7,600 of these enterprises have succeeded with a great deal of economic benefit to a poor region of Canada.

If he wishes to kick the entrails of 12 that are in trouble, then that is up to him.