

Oral Questions

and produce taxes. That is the way we want to approach the problem.

Mr. Preston Manning (Calgary Southwest): I think all members agree with your reply but my question was: Is there a direct connection between the—

The Speaker: Order. I know we are all new to the House but would you please address your questions and your statements directly to the Chair.

Mr. Manning: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, on the same subject of deficits and jobs.

This has come to us. It is an inquiry received on our question fax line from Dr. Dean P. Eyre of Ottawa. He asked the government this question. He said: "The government proposes to spend \$6 billion on infrastructure and create 65,000 jobs. Has the government calculated how many jobs might have been created if that \$6 billion were simply cut from the taxes of individuals, property owners and small businesses?"

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister): The questioners through the leader of the Reform Party should know that only \$2 billion of the \$6 billion is coming from the federal treasury, so it will have reduced only the deficit of the federal government. This infrastructure program is a big success.

The mayor of Calgary is very enthusiastic about this program, as are the mayors of Hamilton, Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, and Shawinigan, Quebec.

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[Translation]

HUMAN RESOURCES

Mrs. Francine Lalonde (Mercier): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Throne Speech the government really disappointed Quebecers and Canadians, who were expecting, after the election campaign's theme of "jobs, jobs, jobs", a true job creation program. In fact, no concrete initiatives were announced, except for the infrastructure program, which is inadequate to our needs.

My question is for Mr. Axworthy who is responsible for human resources development.

An hon. member: The Minister of Human Resources.

Mrs. Lalonde: The Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Axworthy.

An hon. member: No, you are not allowed to mention his name.

Mrs. Lalonde: I cannot name him. Mr. Speaker, I will not name the minister.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mrs. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, would the minister reassure everybody by telling us when the government will finally do

something and which initiatives it will take to help the many Quebecers and Canadians who want to work but who cannot find jobs?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to congratulate you as the new Speaker of the House, which is a difficult task to assume.

I also want to congratulate the hon. member for Mercier for her interest in this issue. I hope that we will have many opportunities to exchange our views, for the benefit of all Canadians.

As the hon. members will know, the Throne Speech includes several initiatives and measures. For example, the Youth Service Corps is a very important tool to put young Canadians to work. We will also set up a training program for all Canadians. I believe this can provide a good solution to the important problems which our young people are facing.

We have also announced a comprehensive reform of our social security system.

• (1435)

This is a good response to the concerns voiced by the poor and it will bring about the essential changes needed to develop an employment program for a large number of Canadians.

Mrs. Francine Lalonde (Mercier): Mr. Speaker, this answer is totally unsatisfactory. I have a supplementary question for the minister. Why did he agree to the \$800 million increase in UI contributions, given the disastrous effect this measure will have on the economy, and considering that the government invests only \$1 billion a year in the infrastructure program?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure what the exact question is but as I tried to outline to the hon. member I will be very glad to provide her with a full explanation of the measures.

In the throne speech we detailed very specific commitments that are made in the red book for providing employment for young people and for the very serious problem of transition from school to work.

The Minister of Finance and the Minister of Industry have outlined a number of measures to help create employment in the small business sector and in high technology to help the provinces develop new initiatives.

As the hon. member will know, we are presenting a series of more detailed explanations. Each minister will be giving an outline of those during the reply to the speech from the throne. I am sure that after the hon. member has had an occasion to listen to the excellent speeches presented by my colleagues she will