

that area by that contribution at a five to one ratio to the province.

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ETHICS

Mr. Stephen Harper (Calgary West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I have pages from a document from the Privy Council Office called "Guidance for Ministers", marked confidential.

I will read the Prime Minister a quote from pages 23 and 24 of that document:

Parliament has gone to special lengths to protect the independent mandate and powers of certain other agencies such as granting bodies or tribunals. You are advised to take very special care to avoid intervening, or appearing to intervene in cases under consideration by quasi-judicial bodies.

In light of this, will the Prime Minister do the only honourable thing that is available and ask the heritage minister to resign?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have asked the minister to be careful but there is no accompanying prohibition for ministers. We have tabled in the House some letters by ministers in support of cases from their constituents. We have debated in the House the problem of members of Parliament who become ministers remaining members of Parliament in our system.

I have asked the ethics counsellor to work on some guidelines so that members who are ministers can serve their constituents at the same time as serving the government. The guidelines will be ready in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Stephen Harper (Calgary West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, these guidelines are absolutely clear.

Is the Prime Minister's version of responsibility that he has no responsibility for his own guidelines, no responsibility for his ministers, no responsibility for his own statements? Is it the Mulroney version of responsibility: "to heck with the facts, I will wait until the next election"? Is that his version of responsibility?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we are looking at the next election anxiously because a lot of you guys will not be there.

We have been in government for a year and Canadians are quite happy with the government. Never has the confidence in the nation been as high as it is today. We have growth in the economy and the mood of the country is very good. I can see why the Reform Party is going fishing when it dropped in the polls from 19 to 11.

[Translation]

Mr. Paul Crête (Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Human Resources Development.

Oral Questions

The federal government's decision, as a result of which unemployment insurance benefits may be cut off to young people who do not use the services of La Relance, a centre subsidized by the federal government, is starting to look like some kind of retaliation or tit for tat, just because the Government of Quebec and the City of Gatineau have decided to support Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi.

Does the minister realize that by supporting La Relance as opposed to Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi, his public servants are contradicting the very essence of the minister's social security reform, which includes substantial flexibility in the way young people will be helped?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as I have just explained, the federal government funds the Carrefour Jeunesse to the tune of \$550,000.

• (1435)

It shows that there is a very clear commitment to that organization to conduct a variety of services. At the same time we made it very clear that the judgment of the employment counsellor as to what is the best reference and the best service should be left to that counsellor and not be second guessed here in the House of Commons.

We are not cutting the UI benefits to the young man. That is a false statement. The hon. member should withdraw that statement. It is simply not a fact. He should recognize that we have many good public servants working in the province of Quebec giving major help to a lot of young people. They should not be second guessed by the hon. member.

[Translation]

Mr. Paul Crête (Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup, BQ): Mr. Speaker, we do not deny the competence of the employment counsellors, but we do deny that the federal government has jurisdiction over manpower training.

Does the minister not realize that this is just one more pitiful example of the federal system's failure to function where manpower training is concerned, which merely strengthens the broad consensus that exists in Quebec in this respect?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's statement is really not logical, nor does it make much sense.

The presence of the federal government is through the people we have as our public servants who represent the federal government who are doing an effective job in giving good advice. In this specific case, as I just stated, we provide funding of over half a million dollars to the Carrefour Jeunesse. We have