

*Oral Questions**[English]*

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we are presently reviewing the program, as the Quebec minister indicated a necessity to do.

We are endeavouring to set up a meeting. We look forward to being able to share our joint assessments of these programs at such a time as a meeting can be arranged.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, for more than a year now, the minister has been promising a review of POWA, which, I would remind members, excludes a considerable number of workers.

Will the minister make a commitment to take, this year, the corrective action that has been requested since 1992 by both the previous Liberal government of Quebec and its present government?

*[English]*

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it is important that we do a broader assessment of the circumstances affecting older workers throughout Canada.

We all recognize it is emerging as one of the more serious concerns we have as the labour market changes. A number of workers are being dislocated from their jobs. We have to find ways of helping them to re-enter the job market and to maintain some security for themselves and their families.

As the hon. member knows, we have a number of experiments going on across the country. There is the job corps in New Brunswick. Recently we initiated a wage subsidy program under the unemployment insurance program. That is beginning this spring. It is a very important way to help older workers re-enter the job market.

I want to be in a position to be able to share the results of these initiatives with my provincial counterparts at an early date. At that time we will certainly take on board representations made by the provinces concerning how we can help older workers in the country.

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**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

**Mr. Jim Silye (Calgary Centre, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the defence minister's staff regularly failed to inform him of important facts until it was too late. The case of Anne-Marie Doyle is another example.

With his answers today regarding the public inquiry into the Somalia fiasco, is the minister confirming that Anne-Marie Doyle will remain as one of the three commissioners?

• (1450)

**Hon. David M. Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I made an announcement last week setting up the commission. The terms of reference are broad. The three commissioners were chosen for their impartiality, knowledge of government and knowledge of the public accountability process. If any one of those people do not measure up to any of those characteristics, that will be addressed.

**Mr. Jim Silye (Calgary Centre, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, here is a quotation from Anne-Marie Doyle: "It was no secret that Robert Fowler and I have been close colleagues and friends for 27 or 28 years".

It is no problem, except that it should disqualify her for the job. Will the minister do her a favour and not have a situation where a friend has to judge a friend?

**Hon. David M. Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I have answered this question four times in this question period. The hon. member will have to be satisfied with that answer.

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**THE ECONOMY**

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It has to do with the call that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has made with respect to the Tobin tax.

Given that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has called on governments of the world to introduce the Tobin tax in order to finance human rights work around the globe, I wonder whether the minister is now prepared to endorse this concept and say that at the G-7 meetings in Halifax the Canadian government will be putting forward a proposal in this regard.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the Tobin tax, as the hon. member knows, is quite an imaginative approach to both the financing of international obligations as well as the problems arising from speculation.

There are some problems with the Tobin tax, not the least of which is that unless it is applied on a worldwide basis it will not work. It would simply give rise to ways around it and other forms of financial instrumentation. For that reason the debate will continue.