Oral Questions

YOUTH

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF NEW PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. Katimavik, Challenge '86 and the Canadian Jobs Strategy have all been affected by budget cuts. Furthermore, Canada's youth and its department have been left out of the Budget. Could the Secretary of State describe the new programs the Prime Minister has promised us, which are supposed to prove that our young people will not be treated in as cavalier a fashion as their Minister?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am in favour of programs that create jobs for young people. In fact, the Minister of Employment and Immigration has created 5,000 jobs per month more than the average achieved by our hon. friends opposite, who lost 5,000 jobs per year. Canadian young people want jobs and they want training, and that is what we are giving them, and I think you should congratulate the Minister of Employment and Immigration on the programs she is introducing.

• (1450)

[English]

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): In giving the boot to the Ministry of State for Youth, is the Government also giving the boot to the National Youth Forum, the Youth Advisory Committee, and any prospect for a coherent youth policy?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, last year, the Ministry of State (Youth) co-ordinated an exemplary International Youth Year.

In my opinion, the Minister did a tremendous job across this country. She met with thousands of young people. She did what a Minister of State (Youth) who has a co-ordinating role within a Government does, since all our departments have earmarked very substantial funds for young people. That is basically what she is asked to do, and once again, she has done a marvelous job.

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

LOW-LEVEL AIR DEFENCE CONTRACT

Mr. W. R. Bud Jardine (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. It was inferred on Friday by one of the national papers that low-level air defence may not now be going ahead

because it had not appeared as a separate line item in the Main Estimates. Could the Minister clarify this, and if the program is to proceed could he give an indication when a contract may be let?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that is one of the reasons why it did not appear in the Estimates is because as the Hon. Member knows, there are deadlines within which decisions must be made in order to be included in the Estimates and in the Supplementary Estimates.

The direct answer to his question is that a decision with respect to the winning contender on the short list has not yet been made.

SHIPBUILDING

EFFECT OF BUDGET ON INDUSTRY

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Minister will know that the Canadian shipbuilding industry is in its worst economic slump in 40 years. I appeal to his sense of fairness and ask if he believes it is fair that communities in British Columbia, Atlantic Canada and Quebec must see the subsidy to this sector of the economy reduced by 17.4 per cent as a result of his Budget, when other countries are increasing their subsidies to their shipbuilding industries?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think that is a question that should most appropriately be directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, who is responsible for that area. I believe the Minister will be back either tomorrow or the next day.

PURCHASE OF VESSELS BY CN MARINE

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Will he give an undertaking to the House that CN Marine, in its subsequent purchases of vessels, will ensure that Canadians will build those ships in Canadian shipyards and that it will not go offshore for those vessels?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member knows that probably more than 90 per cent of the activity of the Canadian shipbuilding industry is the result of activity generated by the Department of Transport under CN Marine and the Coastguard Acquisition Program.

I know that the Hon. Member's interest in this matter is very genuine and sincere, and I will certainly take his representations into account when a decision is being made.