

by heavily armed men and driven away in an army jeep. She has never been seen again.

Many thousands of other people suffer such treatment.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

SUCCESS OF GOVERNMENT'S SIX AND FIVE RESTRAINT PROGRAM

Mr. René Cousineau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, Statistics Canada has just revealed that the annual rate of inflation in September was 5 per cent, the lowest in ten years.

In May 1982, when the Minister of Finance launched the voluntary 6 and 5 restraint program, he asked Canadians to help get the country out of the recession and into recovery. The program was not an end in itself but a beginning. It was a matter of self-confidence, of mutual trust among Canadians.

Today, with an annual inflation rate of 5 per cent, we can say that Canadians have responded to the appeal made by the Liberal Government and that we know the meaning of the word co-operation. We have made tangible progress. The threat of unemployment is receding, while we are making every effort to maintain our markets. Our costs have started to drop. Inflation is going down, and as it combines to do so, interest rates will follow suit.

Madam Speaker, all we have to do now is to have confidence in ourselves and try not to forget the common good of all Canadians. We can, individually, put our shoulder to the wheel and raise our voices in protest when others do not act in to their share.

Last October, the Prime Minister of Canada said that our future would be determined by how we achieved the objectives of the 6 and 5 policy. We have achieved part of that objective—

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

CANADAIR—REVIEW OF FUTURE PLANS—REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I understand there was some confusion about the

Oral Questions

Prime Minister's birth date when he first entered this House. I am glad to see that it has been clarified, and I am sure all Members of the House would join with me in wishing him a belated and very happy birthday.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: In spite of the cosmetic changes announced yesterday, the Canadair situation, because of the dollars involved and the importance of the technology, has indeed become a national issue and one that goes to the heart of the Government itself of government policy, and not to a given Minister. In view of the growing unease and concern about Canadair and the technology, would the Prime Minister agree to take the initiative as a national priority in establishing a select all-Party committee of the House of Commons so that we could begin immediately the task of working with management, the unions, and the Government, in regard to the future plans and operations of Canadair?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his good wishes and those of his Party. It seems to me that the mistake was not so much one of the date of my birthday; it was the fact that the Opposition did not know the times of the sitting yesterday. That is why the wishes are a day late.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The Leader of the Opposition talked about cosmetic changes. I am afraid that is a misunderstanding of the situation. There are some quite considerable changes going on in Air Canada—

Some Hon. Members: Canadair!

Mr. Trudeau: In Canadair.

Mr. McDermid: A Freudian slip.

Mr. Trudeau: I am concerned about the suggestion of having Crown corporations run jointly by committees of the House or associations of various Parties in the House. The whole theory behind Crown corporations is that on their day-to-day operations they not be run by the politicians of one side or the other of the House, and that their objectives have to be defined in the law and in policy statements. In so far as these are concerned, we are happy to have the Opposition, any time it wants, make its points and criticize our views, as it has in Question Period. I think it would be a complete departure from the very important traditions of Parliament if committees of Parliament attempt to run Crown corporations.

Mr. Mulroney: I think the Prime Minister knows quite well that I am not in any way suggesting that Members of the House involve themselves in the management of Canadair.