

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, there was a study carried out on the initiative of Treasury Board. It was certainly found there was a problem with respect to misclassification in a sample of 500 positions. One should not necessarily want to extrapolate across the entire Public Service exactly the conclusion which my hon. friend has suggested. This is the second study of its kind. The first one was carried out in 1978. Corrective measures were undertaken at that time, and this study indicates that further steps have to be taken.

Treasury Board has already been in contact with Departments with respect to these specific instances of misclassification to have them corrected. We are working on other corrective measures. Once they are considered by my colleagues in Treasury Board, I hope to have some positive announcements to bring forward.

**Mr. Huntington:** Mr. Speaker, it is interesting the report says that the statistics are accurate to within 4.5 per cent 95 per cent of the time.

#### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORTS

**Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister what has been done to correct the classification creep? What has been done in response to the Auditor General's 1983 report on this problem, and what has been done about the Auditor General's 1982 report that said "performance review and appraisal in the Government was unsatisfactory"? Is the problem a behavioural one within the system, or are we dealing with Liberal leaders saying one thing and then doing another?

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I want to begin my answer with a response to a point raised by my hon. friend in his first question. I am informed that the study about which we are talking refers to positions that were classified largely prior to the six and five program. I do not think it indicates a problem with respect to anything developing after the six and five program.

With regard to corrective measures, I have already said that, as a result of this study, further measures added to those that were implemented after 1978 are being worked on and I hope to have them in place very soon. The specific instances of misclassification are being corrected in individual Departments.

Regarding my hon. friend's comments about the Auditor General's report, it is interesting to note that some 96 per cent of classifications in the federal Government is done within Departments and by Departments, and yet the Auditor General's report has suggested that a lot of our central control systems should be further dismantled and more should be delegated to Departments. I think Hon. Members, including my hon. friend, who is very concerned about these issues, and I share his concern, should think carefully about taking seriously that kind of suggestion in view of the kinds of problems this Treasury Board initiative seems to be disclosing.

#### Oral Questions

#### SEARCH AND RESCUE

##### WINTER DRILLING ON GRAND BANKS—AVAILABILITY OF RESCUE HELICOPTERS

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister is aware that the Newfoundland Government's ban on winter drilling on the Grand Banks is due to take effect today. He also knows the ban implementation was postponed in order to give the Minister time to respond to the Newfoundland Government's request for search and rescue helicopters to be deployed in either St. John's or Argentina. Does the Minister intend to request his colleague, the Minister of Defence, to deploy the search and rescue helicopters to St. John's or Argentina, or does he intend to respect the ban on winter drilling? Worse still, does he intend to continue to play Russian roulette with the lives of hundreds of offshore workers?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the Hon. Member that last fall there was a discussion between the officials of different Departments in Ottawa, the provincial Government's officials, and the industry. They have developed new plans for security, and new plans for search and rescue. All the things were agreed to at that time. Instructions were given. The plans are there.

I am informed by the Minister of National Defence, who is the Minister in charge of search and rescue, that in the judgment of the people involved in that field the available services are as good as possible. The industry and different officials of different Departments agreed to the plans last Fall. The search and rescue facilities are better this year than last year, as are safety conditions on the rigs.

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If the provincial Minister wants to give orders and threaten people, he can do so. However, we are aware of the fact that it will always be dangerous to go to sea. Either we ban drilling and fishing, or we live with those realities. When one goes to sea, there is always some risk. We are ensuring that the risks are as limited as possible. I am informed that there have been improvements in search and rescue security. The people who are there can stay if they want. If they want to listen to the capricious orders of the provincial Minister, it is up to them.

**Mr. McGrath:** The Minister is badly misinformed and he is playing politics with the lives of people. Those are the facts.

##### REQUEST THAT HELICOPTERS BE STATIONED AT ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence who has the line responsibility here. Yesterday an inter-church committee on the social impact of resource development, representing all denominations in Newfoundland, telexed the Minister requesting additional search and rescue helicopters in