

Oral Questions

totally contradicts that statement by the no side, since, with this fund, Ottawa will interfere even more in the manpower sector?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we continue to see the facts being turned on their head.

The hon. member knows, as I have already stated in the House, that several months ago I wrote to a minister of the Government of Quebec, Madam Harel, suggesting we get together to study the issue of overlap and duplication so that we could clarify roles and responsibilities. Again, no response, rien à faire. I guess Madam Harel started "poofing" before the Leader of the Opposition did.

[Translation]

Mr. Laurent Lavigne (Beauharnois—Salaberry, BQ): Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, the best way to avoid distortions is to give back to Quebec full authority over manpower training, along with the related funding, and thus create a single-window service.

Will the Prime Minister recognize that his government's measure, namely Bill C-96, contradicts the position held by the no committee in the brochure distributed by the director general of elections, since Ottawa is increasing duplication in the manpower sector by eliminating the UI fund?

• (1445)

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the members of the opposition are now recycling their questions from last week.

I will simply give them the answer we gave last week, which is no, Bill C-96 simply consolidates the authorities that were under the existing acts of the four departments that were brought in as part of the human resource development ministry. That is all that took place, nothing more than that. We were simply doing what was done before but consolidating into the new ministry.

Seeing as the hon. member raises this wonderful publication, I am very glad to see that the members of the Bloc Québécois have it in their possession. Maybe they will read it and find out what a co-operative federation strategy really looks like.

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[Translation]

REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

Mr. Paul DeVillers (Simcoe North, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, just like larger corporations, now a majority of small and medium size businesses in Quebec are making a stand against the separation of Quebec. Can the industry minister explain to this House the main economic reasons why those who really create jobs in Quebec want to stay within a united Canada?

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is not at all surprising that small and medium size businesses are against the separation of Quebec.

Some hon. members: Oh, Oh.

Mr. Manley: They do not want to say so, but it is true. An uncertain climate creates problems for businesses and in this case the uncertainty stems from the fact that separatists cannot answer questions on the interprovincial trade agreement and on NAFTA, they cannot give answers to the thousands of Quebecers who depend on foreign trade.

They also understand this when business people go outside Canada. I saw this when I was in Geneva two weeks ago: there were several small and medium size telecommunication businesses from Quebec there. All those people were proud to be Canadians. They all support the maple leaf. They understand that it is a very valuable trademark on world markets. That is what they understand.

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[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mrs. Diane Ablonczy (Calgary North, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, it appears that the same social policy wizards who brought us training programs for jobs that do not exist and who totally mismanaged the TAGS program have now undertaken a \$44,000 airlift of Cape Bretoners to a big Ontario city to try to find work.

I ask the Minister of Human Resources Development if mass evacuation is his solution to the problems facing Atlantic Canadians.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know her history well, coming from the distinguished province of Alberta. Much of the investment and building of that province took place because workers came from all parts of Canada to help build the oil fields in those areas.

It seems to me that one of the great strengths of this country, one of the great strengths of our federation, is that we have no fences or walls between provinces and that people can move freely between these provinces so they can go to work. The most important thing is to find good ways to get people back to work.

Mrs. Diane Ablonczy (Calgary North, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I remind the minister that Ontarians have their own unemployment problems.