

government borrowing which will in turn reduce interest rates and taxes?

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I am sure the member will agree with the thrust of the document which we will be tabling today. It does recognize the fact that the key to continued economic growth and job creation is going to be the private sector and that it is important for government to do as much as it can to stay out of the way of the growth and job creation potential of the private sector.

That is how we intend to move the economy forward so that as the cycles go up and down overall we see a general gain in employment levels as well as in productivity and the economy. That is the key to it.

Do we need to reduce spending? Yes, we need to reduce spending. That was the purpose behind the consultation process that my colleague, the Minister of Finance, launched in this House and in the finance committee a few weeks ago. It is toward that end that we will be working in this February's budget.

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[Translation]

BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN

Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

The Director of the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs at Health Canada, who is currently on leave without pay, is lobbying MPs, on behalf of a group of private drug companies, regarding the virtues of bovine somatotropin.

Does the minister realize that this paradoxical situation in which her department finds itself, with a senior civil servant responsible for the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs now acting as a lobbyist for drug companies interested in marketing somatotropin?

[English]

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the person in question is on leave of absence without pay and as such has not been involved at all on the file having to do with BST.

[Translation]

Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm, BQ): Mr. Speaker, does the minister realize that such leniency in dealing with this unacceptable situation completely destroys the credibility of Health Canada with the public and with the dairy industry, as well as her own credibility as minister responsible?

[English]

Hon. Diane Marleau (Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as I already said, the person in question is on leave of absence without pay, is employed by another centre at this time, is not speaking for Health Canada and has not been involved in the BST file.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

Mr. Raymond Lavigne (Verdun—Saint-Paul, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Human Resources Development.

Most of my constituents are very pleased with the numerous signs of economic recovery, including the slide in the unemployment rate. Many, however, especially young people and women, remain concerned about their future. What steps does the minister intend to take to ensure that the benefits of this recovery are enjoyed equally by all Canadians.

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as members will recall, last spring we introduced a major program for youth employment which sponsored in particular major internship programs in which we would work with the private sector and educational institutions to sponsor on the job training programs for young people.

• (1445)

Up to this point the program has only been working for four or five months. Already close to 10,000 young people have enrolled through private sector arrangements to help them with that major problem of school to work transition. It is our aim by next year to have close to 60,000 young people enrolled.

I believe the new wave of the future is to bring business, government and education into partnership to provide better opportunities for Canadian youths.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry.

Business leaders and academics and most recently the *Globe and Mail* have called for the end of regional development agencies across the country. The Minister of Industry has one industrial strategy yet other ministers have another strategy.

How does the Minister of Industry explain the obvious contradictory messages being sent out? While he says that regional development programs do not work, his colleagues are handing out over a billion dollars a year to repeat defaulters,