

Oral Questions

The Minister of National Health and Welfare has said that the Government was committed to equitable regional distribution. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has said that Montreal will be the centre for the fifth generation of the transport industry. He further said that the Government has deliberately opted for Montreal in aeronautics.

The Deputy Prime Minister is apparently in charge of a committee concerned with western regional development. Could he tell us who is speaking for the Government in this regard, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, or the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this Government is interested in economic growth and the broadening of the economic base in all regions of the country. The manner in which the aerospace contracts were let have taken that into consideration. With regard to the manufacturing sector of the aerospace industry, Montreal is the centre of excellence, having regard to the fact that Canadair, which is now owned by Bombardier, has demonstrated a degree of excellence. With the awarding of the CF-18 contract to Canadair, it will further advance Canadair wherein it will become a leading edge competitor in the manufacturing sector and provide it with world-wide opportunities. Certainly that is good for Montreal. The spin-off benefits will reverberate throughout the country. With regard to the CF-5, Winnipeg becomes a centre of excellence for repair and maintenance. There are other centres of excellence that can be distributed across the region.

GOVERNMENT PLANS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, it is clear from the Deputy Prime Minister's answer that the Government has written Winnipeg off as a future centre for the aerospace industry in this country.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Blaikie: I wish to ask the Deputy Prime Minister when can we see the plan that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources referred to when he was talking about the Government deliberately opting for Montreal and fifth generation technology? Will that plan be made public? At the same time, will the Deputy Prime Minister kindly make public what plans the Government does have, if it has any, for the development of western Canada, particularly Winnipeg?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, CF-18 technology is the latest technology on the boards at the present time. Canada will have the opportunity to use that technology in the manufacturing of airplanes. That should be good for Canada, not only in terms of jobs, but in terms of maintaining its leadership in the manufacturing sector of the aerospace industry.

FINANCE

TAX REFORM—TIMING OF INTRODUCTION

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. It concerns his renegeing on his promise to introduce tax reform with the Budget later this month. Since low and middle-income Canadians are now bearing 90 per cent of the \$6 billion tax burden imposed by the Minister's last two Budgets, will the Minister say if and when they can expect tax reform and tax fairness?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Member, rather than criticizing me for a very short delay in the introduction of tax reform, should be saying that is the right way to do it. Canadians do not want speedy tax reform, if it will not be right. We want to get it right. The implementation will not be delayed by the very short delay in the introduction of a White Paper, but I cannot be precise about the exact date of implementation.

EFFECT OF REFORM ON TAX LEVELS

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): My supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. In December, 1986, high-income Canadians were relieved of their temporary surtax on income. But the 3 per cent personal surtax which applied to everyone regardless of income level is still in force with no end in sight. Will the Minister assure the House that his promise to reduce tax rates will mean real reductions, not just the cancellation of this surtax?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

LAPSED FUNDING INQUIRY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): My question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Minister will know that in the fiscal year 1985-86 there was \$374 million in the Canadian Jobs Strategy that was not spent. Has the Minister determined what that figure will be this year in terms of lapsed money for the Canadian Jobs Strategy? If so, does the Minister have plans to redirect those funds into areas or regions of Canada where they are most in need?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I wish to take note of the question. I am not in a position to answer today. I will provide an answer during the week.

Mr. Axworthy: That's called a well prepared Minister.