

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Birds Hill could put his supplementary question.

Mr. Blaikie: I was waiting for an answer to my question, Mr. Speaker, but it looks as though that will not be forthcoming.

PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Given the fact there is amassed evidence to the effect that his senior Minister in his Government broke the rules, what kind of signal is the Prime Minister sending to all those communities which applied for funding for such projects and need jobs every bit as much as Edmonton, and some of which need them more, and did not get this kind of funding?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Blaikie: What kind of message is the Prime Minister sending when one of his senior Ministers breaks the rules in order to give \$5 million to a couple of "gazillionaires" who need the money like they need a hole in the head? What kind of message is that?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board and the Minister of DRIE have provided all of the objective data which I think should persuade my hon. friend of the very serious—

Mr. Broadbent: Oh, yeah?

Mr. Mulroney:—and I address myself to the Leader of the NDP—very serious misstatements being made by his Members which are quite at variance with formal statements made by senior public officials of DRIE and information provided by the Minister.

My question is why—

Mr. Broadbent: You answer the questions.

Mr. Mulroney:—is the NDP so desperately concerned with raising matters that damage western Canada?

Mr. Broadbent: That's regional racism. You know that.

Mr. Riis: Very divisive.

Mr. Broadbent: You're a disgrace.

Mr. Mulroney: The answer, I suppose—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman could complete his answer.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to answer the question. All of the objective data has been provided. If my hon. friend examines the data very carefully he will see that the Deputy Prime Minister and the former President of the Treasury Board conducted themselves entirely properly as has been confirmed by senior officials of DRIE. The objective was simple and straightforward although my hon. friend clearly disagrees with it. The objective was to assist entrepreneurs in Edmonton to provide thousands of new jobs and much needed diversification of the western economy.

I know that my hon. friends in the Liberal and New Democratic Parties are opposed to the interests of western Canada. That becomes clearer every day.

Mr. Broadbent: That's a lie.

Mr. Orlikow: That's why you're at 24 per cent.

Mr. Fulton: You're scum. You're lying scum.

Mr. Broadbent: No wonder you're at 24 per cent. That's the level of your argument.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: Talk about racism.

Mr. Fulton: Go ahead and pump out more lies.

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[*Translation*]

EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST THAT DRUMMONDVILLE REGIONAL OFFICE NOT BE AFFECTED BY STRUCTURAL REORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In connection with next summer's employment structural reorganization of the Department of Employment and Immigration, the Minister assured me that the Drummondville district regional office would not be closed as a result of the reorganization. Is he now in a position to confirm this so as to reassure my constituents and the Drummond federal office staff?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the restructuring of employment centres and employment development centres is a nationwide project. Far from being complete in Quebec, it is still under way and any information to the effect that we intend to close Drummondville's district centre is unfounded. No such decision has been made concerning restructuring in Quebec.