

*Oral Questions*

## CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

## JOB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—FUNDING IN VANCOUVER

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Regional headquarters of the CEIC in Vancouver have been told to freeze all funding of applications under the Job Development Program until September. This is supposed to be a continuous intake program. Can the Minister, in order to alleviate the tremendous problems this has created for many applicants in my constituency and in neighboring constituencies who have made all their plans, return the funding that has now been frozen?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, we have already approved some \$27 million in new projects for this fiscal year alone. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, under the Canadian Jobs Strategy we have some \$450 million worth of projects operating all across the country.

I must say for the benefit of the Hon. Member and others that those projects continue. They continue to be funded. Moneys continue to be allocated to them. We have, through our annual budget, a plan whereby money will be spent over the balance of the year. Certainly the bulk of it will be spent during the times when unemployment is at its highest, that is, during the fall and winter months, and we want to make sure that some of that money is spent during that time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think the Hon. Minister knows that this is a little long.

## TREATMENT OF APPLICATIONS

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows that all funds have been frozen in the Vancouver region. Is she aware that \$2 million worth of applications will be lying around all summer? Apparently the Minister wants to save up all the money until September, disappointing the applicants who have been told they had every reason to believe they would get funds, so she can make a big blow in September.

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, we try to keep on funding projects all the time. If the Hon. Member wants a list of all of the very worth-while projects that are being funded in British Columbia, I will be more than prepared to provide them to her, including a number of projects in her own riding.

## EDUCATION

## CHIEF JUSTICE'S STATEMENT ON POST-SECONDARY FUNDING

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Last week our national Liberal task force was told by presidents of universities—the Minister can't hear me, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Copps:** He is not interested.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Another immortal comment from Copps.

**Mr. de Corneille:** Last week our—

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Hon. Member have a question, please?

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Help him out, Sheila.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a question, please? I am waiting.

**Mr. de Corneille:** Mr. Speaker, last week our national Liberal task force was told by presidents of universities, faculty associations, and student unions, that post-secondary education is in a financial crisis, which is exactly what Chief Justice Brian Dickson said at the same time in western Canada—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member has now been something over one minute. Could we have a question, please?

**Mr. Beatty:** We want to hear Sheila's supplementary.

**Mr. de Corneille:** Does the Secretary of State agree with the Chief Justice, or does he deny that students and teachers are facing such a crisis?

**An Hon. Member:** Ask him to repeat the question.

**Mr. Clifford:** Do you remember the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada):** If I may respond to this lengthy question, Mr. Speaker, I would say to the Hon. Member that we have stated on several occasions that—and I said so to the Hon. Member in parliamentary committee—we assumed education was first and foremost a provincial responsibility. Still it does not preclude the federal Government, through the Secretary of State, from maintaining close relations particularly with university councils and students associations with a view to defining more