

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. The Hon. Minister will simply rise and withdraw that comment.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, of course I will withdraw that comment.

Ms. Copps: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Thank you.

Mr. Stevens: But, Mr. Speaker, I would simply—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Next question. The Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville.

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YOUTH

MINISTER'S LETTER—RECIPIENTS' REPLIES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Youth and is in regard to the letter she sent to a Minister, or Ministers, that was revealed in the House last Thursday. Can the Minister tell the House whether or not she received a reply from the Minister to whom she sent a letter or indeed from any Minister to whom she may have sent a letter, or do we have to wait until that is leaked as well?

Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, my correspondence is usually not made public.

Mr. Speaker: Different question, supplementary question.

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER RECEIVED REPLY

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister has said that her correspondence is usually not made public, will she make another exception this time and tell us whether or not she received a reply from the Minister to whom the letter was addressed—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order, please. That is the same question. Next question.

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PETRO-CANADA

EAST COAST DRILLING PLANS

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Will the Deputy Prime Minister confirm that Petro-Canada is abandoning five wells off the East Coast of Canada and is backing away from new drilling programs?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice in the absence of the Minister.

Oral Questions

PUBLIC SERVICE

INDEXATION OF PENSIONS

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. I would like to know when we are going to hear an announcement on the issue of the indexation of Public Service pensions. Does the Minister feel that retirees from the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP have had adequate representation during the discussions on pension issues?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as I have said on a number of occasions, we have consulted widely on this issue. The Government is committed to pension reform, but it is also willing to make a very clear statement that we will live by the commitments we made during the election campaign of the summer of 1984 and throughout our term of office. I think the Hon. Member can expect to see a proposal put before the House in the very near future.

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[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE (YOUTH)

MINISTER'S LETTER

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Youth), and it concerns the letter of January 6. Since the last paragraph contains clear instructions, and I shall read them in English: [English]

The letter indicated that she seeks at this time an indication of the 86-87 fiscal parameters vis-à-vis her Ministry. Did she indeed write this letter to the President of the Treasury Board, and did he acknowledged receipt of that letter?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member knows that I have said that questions should not simply repeat themselves. Therefore, I suggest that if he has a question that is different from the one that has already been asked, I will allow it.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION CONCERNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board.

Did he receive the letter? Did he give it special attention? Was he sufficiently attentive to his colleague's, the Minister's, request to explain to the House today what the parameters of this department are? And where do we find those \$100 million in the Estimates?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have no comments to make whatsoever about the correspondence I receive from my Cabinet colleagues.