

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Lapierre:** Does his Government intend to issue a clear policy statement on regional development rather than taking makeshift measures or announcing piecemeal programs?

[English]

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State (Science and Technology)):** Mr. Speaker, the people who were fired as a result of the failure of the Regional Development Act were fired on September 4, 1984, by the people of Canada. We have put in place a regional development incentive which is regionally oriented. It will build on the strength of western Canada and establish a basis for regional development in the east. It will be very successful.

[Translation]

## FUTURE PROSPECTS

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is fully aware that right now, as far as regional economic development is concerned no one who is involved has the slightest idea of the Government's direction and we even wonder whether the Government itself knows where it is going. My question to the Minister is this: Does this Government intend to come up with an overall policy, a policy enabling us to put an end to this situation of two Canadas, one rich and one poor? Does his Government have any vision of Canada and any idea about its responsibilities as a federal Government?

[English]

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State (Science and Technology)):** Mr. Speaker, I thought I saw the pleasant face of the Hon. Member across the aisle. I do not know where his mind was when we announced a western diversification initiative of \$1.2 billion over the next five years, an Atlantic Opportunities Agency with \$1.2 billion over the next five years, and specific programs for regions in Quebec and northern Ontario. I wonder where the Hon. Member has been.

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## CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

## CAPITAL ASSETS

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. As the result of the Government's initiative Canada's only national public broadcasting system, the CBC, has had major budget cuts, contracting out, and the decimation of production crews.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Riis:** The record will show that the Tories applaud.

**Ms. McLaughlin:** In her official response to the standing committee the Minister has now indicated a willingness to consider selling off the capital assets of the CBC as well. How does the Deputy Prime Minister reconcile the Minister's

proposal with earlier commitments of the Prime Minister that the CBC is not for sale?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that question was dealt with in the House a couple of days ago. I believe the Hon. Minister indicated that we want better synchronization of the private and public broadcasting systems. We are aiming at ways and means of delivering the best services to the people of Canada at the lowest possible cost. I think the Minister was speaking of certain aspects which may very well be achieved through the private sector.

In terms of privatizing the CBC, I think that statement was taken out of context. At the present time the Minister is putting together a new broadcasting policy which will be presented to the House in due course.

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW BROADCASTING ACT

**Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, since the new Broadcasting Act that the Minister mentioned will reflect the real intentions of the Government, when will the Government fulfil its Throne Speech commitment to introduce the Broadcasting Act?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, the Minister is presently working on that and taking into consideration the report of the standing committee. I believe she has asked the standing committee for some further background work on the matter. As soon as that is completed I think you can expect a definitive policy statement, hopefully coupled with legislation.

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## PUBLIC SERVICE

## EMPLOYMENT OF VISIBLE MINORITIES

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the new President of the Treasury Board. One year ago the Government put in place, for the very first time in this country, employment equity legislation. At the same time, for the very first time, it introduced in the Public Service a program of affirmative action for visible minorities.

Will the President of the Treasury Board advise the House whether the Public Service of Canada now accurately reflects Canadian society as far as visible minorities are concerned? If it does not, is it his intention to introduce targets for hiring and promotion in the same way as has been done for women in the Public Service?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for that