

S.O. 21

Today, hundreds of students from across Canada, representing the National Jewish Students Union network, have come to the city to meet with their Members of Parliament and enlist support in their cause. At this moment they are holding a demonstration at the Soviet Embassy on Charlotte Street to indicate directly the concern of all Canadians.

We have, sitting in the House, representatives of the student organization who have come from all parts of Canada to be with us today. On behalf of the members of our parliamentary group, I welcome them.

We now stand on the threshold of a new era in the U.S.S.R. We have indicated to the Soviet Union that it must address the problem of Soviet Jews and allow those who wish to leave to do so to be reunited with their families.

• (1410)

As we talk today, those brave Jewish citizens of the Soviet Union face continued brutal harassment. Prisoners such as Anatoly Shcharansky and Iosef Begun languish in prison, their only crime that of wanting to be Jewish and openly expressing that desire.

We are all aware that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) will be in Moscow next week. We trust this issue will be brought directly to the highest levels of the Soviet Government and that he will convey vigorously the concern of Canadians.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

CHALLENGE '85 PROGRAM

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, if I rise in this House today it is to address my constituents of Drummond.

I want to encourage my constituents, the businessmen and women, the business executives, the farmers, and also, of course, the students, to take up the challenge of the employment program developed by our Government.

I refer specifically to the Challenge 85 Program, which should create 95,000 jobs for students next summer.

I hope that my constituency will amply benefit from the amounts made available under this budgetary item of \$205 million and under various other programs announced by our Government.

Mr. Speaker, this program invites the business sector to offer meaningful jobs to students and to provide them with useful skills in anticipation of their joining the labour force. I remind those interested that Quebec employers have until March 29, 1985, to submit their applications to their local employment centre.

Challenge '85 has been designed to help employers meet this objective. This program is intended for Canadians in every sector of the economy, and during the International Youth Year, I invite them to create jobs for young people. In addition, this is an innovative step on the part of our Government since it is the first time that a summer employment program calls for the participation of goods and services suppliers and not only small businesses.

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[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS—REMUNERATION LEVELS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, the Government yesterday announced major salary increases for some of its Tory faithful who recently received patronage appointments. This weekend the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) rejected suggestions that money be spent to improve the lot of unemployed Canadians. He told Canadians that the deficit must be cut, while the boys in the back room were padding the pay cheques of Tory appointees.

What makes these newly appointed Tories so special that the Prime Minister, the boss of bosses, would make such an about-face within two days? In this new system, Tory losers become winners. Conservative back-benchers must now regret their victories when some of their Tory friends will be making close to twice their salaries.

During the election campaign the Prime Minister made an issue of patronage. He even called for a new morality. Where is the morality now? One of his favourite words is "honour". Where is the proof that there is honour or that it is more than a six-letter word? I invite the Prime Minister to eat his own words. If he has even a modicum of honour, I guarantee he will become as sick as he is making the people of Canada with his double-talk.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

CREATION OF NATIONAL CONSENSUS

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Last week, Mr. Speaker, Ottawa was the scene of a conference attended by socio-economic participants from various regions of Canada. It is only in months and years to come that we will know whether the conference was successful.

As expected, each group raised the priorities of its own region, but it must be emphasized that it was the first time the Federal Government was able to gather as many socio-economic spokespersons.

It was a step in the right direction. Hopefully, the House will begin to acknowledge our constructive efforts in the