

future plans would be with respect to energy costs in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. We are going to have further discussions on this within the next ten days. Hopefully I will be able after those meetings are over to give some indication which might alleviate the hon. member's concern.

Mr. Nickerson: Madam Speaker, that is what I would call a non-answer. Just before the budget came down the minister's own office put out a press release. When he was asked by northerners about what they suspected might well be in the budget, increases in the prices of heating oil and oil used for the generation of electricity, he said that he was going to talk to his colleague the Minister of Finance about it. I would like to know whether he neglected to speak to his colleague the Minister of Finance, or was it just that when he did he was ignored by that gentleman?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): No, Madam Speaker, I was not ignored. I had discussions not only with the Minister of Finance but also with the Minister of National Revenue. The hon. member may have noticed that there was a decision to extend the moratorium for a further year in terms of taxation of certain benefits. I believe that was designed to alleviate the type of condition the hon. member is talking about. Might I say that it received a good deal of approbation from residents in the north.

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EMPLOYMENT

PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE INDUSTRIES TO HIRE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, my question is a follow-up from yesterday, and it is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. By now he should be aware of the fact that Amoco Corporation and other companies are cancelling their entire campus recruiting programs as a consequence of the devastating budget. The job situation for university students and graduates will be very bad next year.

Can the minister tell us what programs he will have in place by April and May which will encourage industries to hire the graduates of our technical institutes, community colleges and universities?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I will begin by saying that I hope the hon. member will use his good offices with the Premier of Alberta to ask him to withdraw his decision to freeze the development of tar sands projects. It was not this government which froze those projects but the Premier of Alberta. I suggest that the hon. member would be using his time much more fruitfully if he encouraged a much greater degree of openness in negotiations on the part of his friends in the province of Alberta instead of worrying about this government.

Point of Order—Mr. Clark

Mr. Hawkes: Madam Speaker, I repeat what I said yesterday. Unemployment is a serious situation. The minister indicated in the House yesterday that he recently returned from the west and that he was told by oil industry people that there was a shortage of trained workers. I suspect that either he is dead wrong, he cannot listen, or his information is out of date. A week ago the budget changed the situation from a shortage of skilled workers to a surplus of skilled workers. Can the minister tell us to whom he has talked this week in western Canada who would give him information on the effect that this budget has had on the economy of Canada?

• (1500)

An hon. Member: He has not been out there for months.

Mr. Axworthy: Madam Speaker, unlike the hon. member, I try to talk to a wide variety of people, not simply to people within one company in the oil and gas industry.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Axworthy: Madam Speaker, if the hon. member has finished his cheer-leading practice, we can get on with the answer to the question. The fact of the matter is that within that budget there is well over \$1 billion of grants and incentives to the Canadian-owned oil and gas industry to provide major new developments for exploration and development in that province alone. It is one of the most important incentives offered for the development and expansion of the Canadian-owned oil and gas industry in western Canada.

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POINTS OF ORDER

MR. CLARK—SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION—SENATE REPRESENTATION

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order having to do with the business of the House and the committees of the House. The government House leader will know that fully two nights ago the other place agreed to refer the constitutional resolution to a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons. There has been some difficulty in the government party in finding senators who would serve as its representatives on the committee, and I wonder if the government House leader could tell us which senators will be representing the government party on the joint committee and when that joint committee will begin its sessions. I ask that because not long ago the government was arguing that this matter was so urgent that it had to use closure to cut off debate in the House of Commons. Could the government House leader answer that question about House business?