

S.O. 21

[Translation]

YOUTH

APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH

Mr. Gaston Gourde (Lévis): Madam Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne it was announced that the Canadian Government proposes to appoint a Minister of State for Youth some time during this session. This decision has been eagerly awaited and recommended by many groups, and I believe that a special Ministry for Youth will be able to channel all its energies into providing for the well-being of young Canadians. I am particularly pleased, since last spring, there was a proposal from the Youth Commission of the Liberal Party to create this kind of ministry, a proposal that received the support of our party's general executive. Early last summer, the Liberal Members for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) and Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier) and Senator Jacques Hébert recommended a measure of this kind, which received the full support of the caucus of Liberal Members from Quebec at Lac Delage. I am glad that the Progressive Conservative Party is supporting the project, but as usual, their support has come six months too late. Nevertheless, I hope they will also support the other youth measures announced in the Speech from the Throne, including the creation of a national voluntary service to help youth employment, the creation of a bonus system for travelling in Canada and all the other measures applying to young people.

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[English]

YOUTH

CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT'S EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Madam Speaker, this country was built by young people. John A. Macdonald was only 15 years old when he articulated as a lawyer. J. Wesley Dafoe was only 19 when he became the first editor of the *Ottawa Journal*. William Van Horne was just 14 when he started his railroad career. Instead of real job creation, the Liberals use Monty Python doublespeak and sleight of hand to delude today's youth.

On April 18 of this year the then Minister of Employment and Immigration announced the youth initiative program with over \$1 billion for employment and training. The same program reappears in the Speech from the Throne. This time it is called the Youth Opportunity Fund. Ministers promised us 10,000 jobs in a conservation corps, which now conceals to a new name, Environment 2000. Instead of 10,000 jobs, we now get 4,600. On December 7 the Minister claimed youth job creation at 125,000. The next day he reduced the figure to 90,000. In one night he spilled 35,000 jobs. This is an attempt to deceive the youth of Canada. There are no new dollars.

This is a Government whose imagination is limited to short-term employment for 20 per cent of the unemployed youth.

Four hundred thousand others are without hope. The Liberals are in power; the Black Hole has arrived.

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INCOME TAX

DEPARTMENT'S DELAY IN ISSUING REFUNDS TO TAXPAYERS

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, there is a growing concern among Canadians about the annual delay in processing income tax returns. In 1983, particularly, Revenue Canada had such a backlog of unprocessed income tax returns that some areas refused to accept individual inquiries from taxpayers on when they could expect a refund, indicating, in a recorded message in June, they could expect an additional wait of at least 10 weeks for a refund, despite compliance by the taxpayers with the filing deadline.

Revenue Canada officials have stated continually that the delay in processing tax returns and issuing refunds is caused by Parliament's failure to expedite approval of amendments to the income tax laws. Even though Revenue Canada paid interest at 10 per cent on refunds to those who met the filing deadline, many Canadian taxpayers became so frustrated, or were so financially hard pressed, that they flocked to income tax firms which offered instant refunds at a discount rate, as opposed to waiting further.

It is of concern to me, Madam Speaker, that Canadians are subjected to this type of inconvenience due to the delays encountered in receiving their tax refunds. I therefore urge this House to consider remedies to this problem and recommend particular emphasis be placed on reviewing the propriety of the procedural tactics invoked by the Opposition which contributed substantially to the delay in passage of amendments to the income tax laws.

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● (1410)

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

TRANSIT SERVICE DEFICITS—NEED FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Madam Speaker, Canadian municipalities require a commitment very soon from the federal Government that there will be a suitable replacement for the Urban Transportation Assistance Program. Under that program many municipalities acquired federal funds for transit related capital projects. This Program expires in March of next year, but for all intents and purposes it is already over. Most of the funds have already been spent, and in my home Province of Manitoba no new projects are being approved.

There is some urgency attached to this matter in that municipalities want to know, before they begin their annual budget deliberations, whether they can count on a program similar to UTAP. Their concern is understandable.