

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Marchi:** I remind the Minister that on August 19 the Prime Minister said "If we err, we will always err on the side of justice and on the side of compassion". The Minister has just changed the tune of the Prime Minister's song.

Given that the only solution to our refugee policy is a refugee determination system which is new and separate from our immigration structures, when will the Government, instead of governing by temporary trial balloons, issue refugee legislation which the Minister's three predecessors have been promising for the last three years? The evidence is in. Stop procrastinating.

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will make an exercise for my friend. What does he call a country that receives over 120,000 immigrants every year and is ready to increase that level? What does the Member call a country that receives over 15,000 refugees from refugee camps across the world? What does he call a country that is ready to receive all genuine refugees who need the protection of Canada? Does the Member call Canada an unfair and a non-equitable country?

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

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**EMPLOYMENT**

## CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY—EXPENDITURE LEVELS

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. I have here some figures from the Canadian Jobs Strategy to be in the Main Estimates that the Government will be tabling in a few days or a few weeks' time. According to these figures, and in light of high regional unemployment, I want the Minister to explain to this House why spending under the major components of the Canadian Jobs Strategy will be about the same in Quebec next year as this year, about the same in Atlantic Canada next year as this year, and why will there be a cut-back in this program of some \$2.8 million in western Canada where we have high regional unemployment? Can he explain why this insensitivity on the part of the federal Government toward regional unemployment will be in the Estimates in a few days' time?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has got to broaden his sphere of thinking. There are many ways that the problems of regional disparities can be addressed. One is in direct job creation, for instance, that part of the Canadian Jobs Strategy where we are trying to help Canadians get trained so that they can obtain permanent jobs. It is not the old make-work short-term dead-end job policies which the previous Government brought about.

● (1200)

In addition to that, the Deputy Prime Minister is heading up a task force within the Government to look at areas of western

diversification. The Prime Minister has a study under way to look at ways of improving job possibilities through the various programs we have introduced in Atlantic Canada. I already enumerated these programs to the House during Question Period yesterday. If the Hon. Member wishes me to remind him of them, I would be happy to do so again.

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT—GOVERNMENT FUNDING

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister still has not said why there will be cut-backs in these major components of the Canadian Jobs Strategy in the Estimates the Government is about to table. Perhaps he could answer that question as well as tell us why the federal Government continued the \$3 billion per year cut-back in regional development spending in the Budget. Three billion dollars per year, now in the third year, amounts to \$9 billion across Canada. Why are those major cut-backs occurring? Why is the Minister so insensitive to regional unemployment in Canada?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad the Hon. Member raised that particular question because I am happy to have the opportunity to talk about it. The reasons for the drop in actual spending in the economic and regional development envelope are the following: the \$3.6 billion in energy was the result of the dismantling of the National Energy Program, the PIP grants, the COSP, the CHIP and all the various programs that were part of that. A number of capital spending projects have been completed since 1984-85 and that is another reason. A third reason is that \$450 million of new equity has gone into Crown corporations since 1984-85. The sale of Canadair to de Havilland is an example of that. We have privatized those companies because we feel they are more effective in the private sector—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Minister obviously has a very long and detailed answer. Perhaps he could send his notes over to the Hon. Member.

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**AGRICULTURE**

## FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Minister knows that the grain summit held in San Diego this week was a complete failure and that the price wars over grain in international trade will continue and will drive down prices by at least 25 per cent this year. We know that last year the Government only provided assistance to farmers because of the election in Saskatchewan. Why is there nothing in the Budget to assist farmers in the new crop year, farmers who are facing low grain prices? Is it because there is no election planned in Saskatchewan?