

Oral Questions

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, the Minister's answer is stretching our relationship in buddyhood.

LOSS OF JOBS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): It is true that we cannot put fish in the water but the owners of the plants decide where they put the fish in the cans. Since the Free Trade Agreement, the fish go in the cans in American plants while Canadian plants close down. That is what is happening. This is the same sell-out of British Columbia where the Minister said we would not lose a single job.

Is the Minister prepared to stand by his word and fight for the rights of those working people in Atlantic Canada, or has he given up to dedicate his career entirely to be a comic?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman certainly does not know much about the fishery in the East Coast of Canada because we are not putting the fish in the can on the East Coast of Canada. National Sea is preparing fresh fish fillets, frozen fish fillets, fillets of every type. They are not putting fish in the can. Their problem is that it is not possible to put anything in a package or can unless it is caught first. There is a serious diminution in the fish available to be caught, a vast increase in the number of fish plants and a serious problem in eastern Canada which we will have to help resolve. I am dedicated to helping resolve the East Coast fishery position.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton West, on a single supplementary question.

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AIRPORTS

FUTURE OF HAMILTON AIRPORT

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the question regarding Pearson International Airport. Given the circumstances at Pearson International Airport, and that the Minister of Transport has stated that Hamilton Airport is being seriously considered in the over-all plans for southwestern Ontario, will the Minister of State for Transport describe to us the current negotiations being held about that viable alternative called Hamilton Airport?

Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, let me quote the regional chairman of the Hamilton Wentworth area who said: "Everything is coming together very nicely and all the work of the last three months by the airport committee and the regional council is starting to pay off". It is paying off in Hamilton. We now have United Parcel Service that has offered a service out of Hamilton. We are now flying to Minaki Lodge in Northern Ontario, for those who want to hunt and fish. More will be happening at Hamilton Airport.

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[Translation]

THE BUDGET

HEALTH SERVICES—REASONS FOR BUDGET CUTS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Tory—I repeat: Tory—Senator, Dr. Paul David, the eminent heart surgeon and founder of the Montreal Institute of Cardiology, stated in a speech in the Senate that our health care system was in very serious trouble because of a lack of funding, and that overcrowding in emergency wards, long waiting lists, the closing of hospital beds and deteriorating equipment were all due to a lack of money. He also said because of our ageing population and increasingly sophisticated medical procedures, the health care system will become increasingly visible and unbearable to the ill.

Does the Minister have an answer to the words spoken by an eminent physician and can he explain to the House why he opted for a second 1 per cent deindexation of the federal Government's transfer payments for health care, instead of taxing the banking system?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we are taxing the bank system. We have applied a new tax to the bank system in this Budget.

Contrary to what some people are saying on the new goods and services tax, that will also apply to the banking system. We are dealing with the banks in the reforms of taxation.

The Hon. Member asked a question about Established Programs Financing. I said to the Hon. Member in the House yesterday, and I think I have said it to a number of other Members, that we are not decreasing funding for the Established Programs Financing. Funding is increasing by \$25 billion over the course of the next five years, compared to the last five years. There will not be less money available, there will be more money available.