

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

#### COST OF TAX LOOPHOLE

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Finance. I think Canadians have a right to know how much this particular tax loophole has cost them in the last number of years.

Can the Minister give an example of the size of savings to individuals and corporations by this tax loophole that he allowed for over four years as Minister of Finance in terms of briberies and kick-backs?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of National Revenue has stated very clearly that this matter came to our attention yesterday. We made a change and we announced it one day later. I think that gives the Hon. Member a very good indication of how seriously we take this question of tax loopholes, things that we find offensive. We have been doing a great deal to get them out of the tax system. As I have indicated, I appreciate the Hon. Member's support.

What the Hon. Member has asked is the tax cost. I do not believe that it is a significant amount of money because that is certainly not the way business is done in this country and there will be no value in this from the standpoint of the Tax Act in the future at all.

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[Translation]

#### MINES

##### REINSTATEMENT OF CANADA-QUÉBEC AGREEMENT ON MINERAL DEVELOPMENT—GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

**Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Canada-Quebec Minerals Development Agreement has been relatively satisfactory in meeting the objectives that were set. The agreement expires in 1990.

Mr. Speaker, my question is this: Could the Minister inform the House whether the agreement will be renewed and whether it will include the financing of a minerals research laboratory by Canmet in Abitibi-Témiscamingue?

#### Oral Questions

• (1450)

[English]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has taken a great interest in mining development not only in Canada, but particularly in northern Québec. I remind him that the MDA with the Province of Québec expires in 1990. There has been some very good technology out of that agreement, particularly in the Member's riding, with mining technology. He has been very instrumental in getting that development. I congratulate him. Obviously the representation that he has made I will take into consideration.

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[Translation]

#### PUBLIC SERVICE

##### VISIBLE MINORITIES—HIRING—GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Today, people talk about equality for all Canadians. Although last year, almost 17 per cent of all applications for employment with the Public Service came from visible minorities, these represented less than 5 per cent of total recruitment for the Public Service. What does the Minister intend to do to end this flagrant discrimination?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer the Hon. Member by quoting a number of statistics that basically apply to employment equity programs that have been established since 1985. For instance, the number of women in managerial and senior positions increased from 7.3 per cent to 10.3 per cent; the number of native people, from 1.5 per cent to 1.6 per cent; the disabled, from 1.5 per cent to 2.6 per cent. For visible minorities, the figure almost doubles, rising from 1.7 per cent to 2.7 per cent. Our policies are working. I admit that progress is slow, but as with any policy that affects Public Service employees, it takes time before improvements can be made. However, I think this is already quite a lot, over a two-year period.

[English]

##### NATIVE PEOPLES AND VISIBLE MINORITIES

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, I don't think the Minister can hide behind figures and gutless programs. The Minister knows very well the findings of the Human Rights Commission. In federal government Departments the representation of native peoples is abysmal. Women professionals make up under a quarter of the Public Service.