

*Oral Questions*

financial stress have aggravated wife battering, child abuse, problems with alcohol, drugs, depression, and loneliness. Is the Minister aware of this report? Is the Minister also aware that every day he postpones job-creation programs he is adding to the suffering of families that are already in desperate straits?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, no, I had not been aware of that report. I thank the Hon. Member for drawing it to my attention. I do share the kind of concern which she has expressed and which the report, I gather, indicates of the social and traumatic effects that high levels of unemployment have. I have myself spoken out often on that subject. It would be wrong for her to suggest, as I think her question implied, that we are delaying the implementation of employment programs. That is not the case. We are spending something well over \$1 billion this year on job-creation programs. We are not holding back. I do hope, and I suspect in the context of the Speech from the Throne, that we will be able to indicate to the House some suggestions and proposals about how we may do an even more effective job in spending government funds for these purposes.

**Mr. McDermid:** It had better be good.

**Mr. Roberts:** We are already assaying to accomplish and achieving considerably successful results.

**Miss MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, my concern is with the social and human costs of unemployment. The Government is not taking them seriously, and the New Democratic Party would not even agree to debate them today.

## SOCIAL AND HUMAN COSTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I want to address my supplementary question to the Deputy Prime Minister, if I could have his attention.

I have spoken about this report that has just been published and the correlation between unemployment and the desperate costs of human suffering. Is there any effort under way by the Government which the Minister represents, any real effort, to calculate the social and human costs of unemployment? Is that kind of study or correlation being carried out by the Department of Health and Welfare or by the Ministry of State responsible for Social Development?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's concern. I believe we all understand that unemployment does create hardship, economic hardship, social hardship, that can be seen by any one of us in our work in our constituencies. I do not believe it is necessary to have studies in order to demonstrate that fact. It is obvious.

**Miss MacDonald:** Just ignore it.

**Mr. MacEachen:** That is why the Minister, in his answer, has indicated that at the present time this Government, because of the hardship caused by unemployment, is devoting

such substantial sums to the relief of the unemployed and to alleviating the problems of unemployment. I appreciate her precise interest in knowing exact correlations. I will inquire whether any specific studies of that point are being made. But on the larger point I acknowledge, and we all do, the impact of unemployment on the social condition.

**Miss MacDonald:** It has got very much worse in the past few years.

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## CROWN CORPORATIONS

## SALARIES OF EXECUTIVES—DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION IN UNITED STATES

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Last week the Government tabled a report which outlines the salary ranges for Governor in Council appointees. Will the Minister explain to the House why Americans can find out the exact salaries paid to heads of Crown agencies which do business in the United States, and Canadians, who pay those salaries, cannot?

[Translation]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, last week, when I tabled a very detailed report on salary ranges of employees appointed by order in council, I was merely observing the provisions of an Act of Parliament, and in the circumstances, I fail to see why my hon. friend is upset that the Government has acted within the period provided under Section 13(1) of Bill C-124, the Public Sector Compensation Restraint Act. I wonder why he is so shocked about the fact that we have observed to the letter the provisions of that particular section of the Act.

[English]

## NUMBER OF EXECUTIVES IN CANADA POST CORPORATION

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the Minister's detailed knowledge of that report, I would like to make a suggestion to him. The report indicates that, for positions outside the Treasury Board guidelines, the salary range is from \$63,000 to \$228,000. There are 16 agencies reporting 39 positions with employees in that salary range. Can the Minister explain to the House and to the Canadian people why 18 of those positions, almost half of them outside the guidelines, are Canada Post employees? Why does Canada Post need so many highly paid executives who are outside of Treasury Board guidelines?

[Translation]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, once again, when we provided details on salaries of people appointed by order in council, we had to observe the provisions of the Act that was passed by Parliament not long ago. As I indicated earlier, the Act is very specific. It pre-