

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Fox:** I realize, Madam Speaker, that it is very embarrassing to the previous Conservative government to recognize its lack of interest in matters concerning student groups in this country.

**An hon. Member:** Order.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I also have to call the minister to order. I would like him to answer the question.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** You have over-pled your case.

**Mr. Fox:** I will be pleased to answer the question, Madam Speaker. As a result of this meeting with the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Education, the one-stage, no input process established by the previous Conservative government will be replaced by a second stage whereby the discussion paper to be produced by the joint federal-provincial task force will be made available to student groups, the National Union of Students in particular, in order that they may have meaningful input before any decisions are taken on matters of great concern.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

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

**An hon. Member:** Show a little respect for Parliament.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. All questions deserve an answer if the minister so chooses to give one. A question has been asked. We must have the answer, but I would ask the minister to be brief and to conclude.

**An hon. Member:** This is an abuse of the House.

**Mr. Fox:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My conclusion is that there will, indeed, be meaningful student input into the process following the publication of the discussion paper which will be made available to student groups in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Fox:** Unlike members opposite, who speak a lot about freedom of information but were not willing to make these discussion papers available.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I do not know whether the minister has concluded his answer. I will ask if he has, and if he has then I will proceed to another hon. member.

**Mr. Fox:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**HOUSING**

## DESPERATE SITUATION ON INDIAN RESERVES

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister of Canada, regarding the desperate housing situation on Indian reserves. In view of the fact that funds are urgently needed to build over 13,000 new homes that are backlogged, and that 24 per cent of the present homes on reserves are badly in need of repair, as well as the \$12,000 per unit subsidy that is completely inadequate to meet current construction costs, will the Prime Minister assure us that additional funds will be allocated for reserve housing, as requested in an urgent memo recently to his cabinet?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I will be glad to take notice of the question and research that document to which the hon. member refers.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

## TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIANS ON RESERVES

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** My second question is to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In view of the appalling and disgraceful state of housing on Indian reserves, will the minister explain why housing construction projects are no longer eligible for LEAP funding, since this program was essential to build housing as well as to provide training and employment opportunities for people on reserves? Will the minister also explain why no program has been initiated to fill this void?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, in answer to the hon. member, I would say that a program has been initiated. In this House just two weeks ago we announced a program of Canada Development Projects across Canada which will have special additional funds allocated for native employment.

As we indicated in the opening statement in announcing that project, if other federal departments want to put up capital moneys, then certainly the labour component of those projects will be paid for under the Canada Development Projects. These funds are certainly available to any group on a reserve to initiate a housing program under that arrangement.

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[Translation]

**THE CONSTITUTION**

## INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER WILL ACCEPT INVITATION OF CLAUDE RYAN

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the