

Oral Questions

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Montreal Island.

In 1990, the manufacturing sector in Montreal lost 31,500 jobs. Today, 188,000 people in Montreal are unemployed.

An hon. member: Shame!

Mrs. Maheu: Forty-one thousand of these jobless are young people. Is that how we build a country? When is the minister going to wake up and do his job, which is to look after the development and prosperity of Montreal?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour and Minister of State (Transport)): Madam Speaker, it takes a lot of nerve for a member of the Liberal Party to try and teach the Conservative Party how to create jobs on Montreal Island.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Corbeil: Perhaps, Madam Speaker, we should make allowances for the hon. member for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville who may not have all the facts, but we cannot make the same allowances for the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce who has been sitting in this House as a Liberal member for 25 years.

Before 1984, Madam Speaker, during the last 17 or 18 years the Liberals were in power in this country, Montreal lost not 100, not 200, but 4,000 jobs. When they were defeated—a good thing for Canada—there were 4,000 jobs less on Montreal Island than when they came to power. When this government took over in 1984, it managed to create what is today a total of 83,000 jobs, many of them in the riding of the hon. member for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville, when for instance, we helped Canadair with the stretch jet.

• (1430)

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Madam Speaker, the answer is totally unrelated to the current situation in Montreal.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mrs. Maheu: You are always referring to the past, seven years ago. Come back to the present!

My supplementary question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. How can a \$100 million cutback in the Canadian Job Strategy make the unemployment rate drop in Montreal where it stands at 15.1 per cent?

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Madam Speaker, if my colleague wants to talk about what has been happening since 1984, I must tell her that economic and regional development agreements with the province of Quebec are already planned and will amount to approximately \$440 million for the period between 1988 and 1993. As Minister of State working with the hon. Barbara McDougall, I have personally participated in the constitution of committees in support of the recommendations of the CREESOM Report. We developed programs concerning the industrial base, with the help of the Department of Industry, Science and Technology. I could also mention the housing assistance we provided.

In response to the hon. member, the \$100 million cut she is referring to will enable us to pursue the programs that are already part of the process. We will continue to work with the collectivities which are aware of their needs and we will identify priorities. Bill C-21 and the Labour Force Strategy finally enable us to provide training and have an adequate labour force. I could go on. We supported MACs. I was with my colleague in Montreal, last Monday, to make a joint announcement—

Madam Deputy Speaker: I think the hon. minister will have a chance to finish answering later.

The hon. member for Hamilton East.

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the same minister. The government's logic is pitiful. She claims that taking \$100 million out of the job creation budget is going to help 41,000 unemployed young people in Montreal. Considering that 41,000 young people under 30 have been laid off in Montreal since last year, doesn't this government realize it is destroying the heart and soul of one of the greatest cities in the world? When is it going to do something to create jobs instead of spouting political rhetoric?

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of State (Employment and Immigration) and Minister of State (Seniors)): Madam Speaker, I may remind the hon. member that the Canadian Jobs Strategy is part of our global strategy at the Department of Employment and Immigration. For