

[English]

## PUBLIC SERVICE

### REDUCTION THROUGH ATTRITION

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, much unfounded concern has been generated recently over so-called lay-offs in the federal public civil service.

I want to reiterate our Government's intention to accomplish this goal through attrition and not massive lay-offs. We have committed ourselves to reducing the size of the federal civil service, which the previous Liberal Government allowed to grow much faster than the economy.

Like Canadians across the country, my constituents in Saskatoon East told me that they want to see a lean, efficient Government working for them here in Ottawa. We indicated our intention to reduce the size of the federal civil service during the campaign of 1984. We introduced the current policy in the May, 1985, Budget.

It has never been our intention to eliminate all positions overnight. We have committed ourselves to decreasing Government expenditures and reducing the size of the federal public service by 15,000 positions all across Canada by 1990. Canadians also told us that they do not want us to lay off 15,000 people to reach this goal; nor do we. That is not the way to go about attaining our objectives. Rather, we intend to reduce the size of the federal Government wherever possible through attrition.

● (1415)

To illustrate just how realistic and effective is this goal, I would like to cite the most recent figures released by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret). Figures from all Departments show that of 5,000 federal employees across Canada whose jobs will not be renewed after March, 1987, a maximum of only 700 could possibly face lay-offs. Special measures have been implemented to ensure that they are given jobs and/or retraining priority. So let us hear no more scare tactics—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### ENERGY

#### PRICE OF GASOLINE IN VANCOUVER

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. When she was the energy critic sitting on this side of the House, she complained regularly about the fact that American motorists were getting a better deal than Canadian

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motorists. As late as January 31, 1984, she said that it was costing our tourist industry about \$2 billion in revenue, and that is cited in *Hansard*. I want to ask the Minister, as she and I both represent adjacent ridings in Vancouver, why it is that it costs the average family in Vancouver \$13 more to fill the tank in an average car than it does across the border in Seattle.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Ask Marc Lalonde.

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Member refers to prices in Vancouver. I would just like to point out that under the figures which he used in the House the other day, gasoline prices have actually fallen, using the 47-cent per litre price which he used, from the 50 cents per litre that occurred in Vancouver when he was Prime Minister.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

#### WESTERN ENERGY ACCORD

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, let us be absolutely a little more direct here.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** When the Minister announced her Energy Accord in March, prices were \$7 less per tank in Vancouver than they are today. How does she explain that one?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Member knows that we have deregulated the industry and that we should give the industry and consumers the opportunity to benefit from the price changes which are in the system. I would like to point out that when the Liberal Government brought in the National Energy Board—

**An Hon. Member:** You mean "program".

**Miss Carney:**—Canadian consumers were slapped with an 80 per cent increase in the price of gasoline.

[Translation]

#### INQUIRY WHY GASOLINE IS MORE EXPENSIVE IN MANICOUAGAN THAN IN EASTERN UNITED STATES

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is not too good at comparing prices in Vancouver and Seattle.

Could the Minister explain to the House why people in the Prime Minister's riding of Manicouagan are paying for gasoline \$13 more than the people in the Eastern United States, just across the border?

[English]

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, we have said many times in the House that Governments do not set the price of gasoline, that