

[English]

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, about all I can usefully tell my hon. friend at this time is that it appears that it will likely be connected with an extension of the Montreal special region.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacKay: However, I do not think it would be useful for me to speculate at this time until I have something tangible to announce.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BUDGET TO QUEBEC

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion whether he can confirm his position to the effect that he rejected the request put to him by the Quebec minister, Mr. Léonard, to transfer the entire DREE budget to the province of Quebec. What was the minister's answer to this request from the provincial government when they met in Montreal yesterday?

[English]

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to tell my hon. friend that we had useful discussions. But I could not agree to any substantial change in the existing practice for the allocation of DREE funding at this point.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

BILINGUAL LABELLING—RESULTS OF REVIEW

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier and the hon. member for Vaudreuil asked questions of the Prime Minister regarding the entrenchment of language rights in the constitution, to which they did not get very satisfactory answers.

I have some questions for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In British Columbia, during the election campaign, the Prime Minister said he would take steps to lessen the requirements for bilingual labelling—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: —and after the election the minister said he was undertaking a review to pursue the Prime Minister's statement. Would the minister tell us if he has completed the review of bilingual labelling requirements and, if so, when will he announce them to the House?

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Solicitor General and Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the review

Oral Questions

has been completed; that is the actual work of obtaining opinions of people in public life, from people in industry and from people across the country has been completed. These opinions, comments and suggestions relate to the policy of the previous administration and where the new administration should go, and they are presently being collated for me. I have not yet received them. However, as soon as I do, the matter will be discussed with my cabinet colleagues and an announcement as to future policy changes, if any, will be made in the House.

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EMPLOYMENT

TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAMS TO CREATE JOBS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration arising out of a speech he made yesterday. What steps will his department take to ensure that the tax incentive programs he announced will create the objective of 105,000 jobs for young people next year?

● (1450)

What steps will his department take to ensure that those incentives will not be used simply to subsidize employers in paying low, near-minimum wages and, indeed, will lead after a year to permanent and better paying jobs.

Hon. Ron Atkey (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there will be basically two requirements to ensure what the hon. member is after. One is that the job must, in fact, be a new job: the employer must so declare and prove that it is a new job. The other requirement, of course, is that it is a tax credit. The company claiming the tax incentive must be in a tax payable position in the year of claim or in the five-year period carried forward, as the case may be. Therefore, there are some precautions. In addition, there will be precautions which I will deal with more fully during the course of the budget debate after the details of the program are announced.

Mr. Orlikow: Given that his department has been spending hundreds of millions of dollars over the past ten or more years on Manpower training programs, and that our shortage of skilled workers is still so great that the minister now proposes to encourage people with special job skills to come to Canada, what new steps, if any, is his department taking, in co-operation with the provincial departments which deal with apprenticeship training, so that future needs for skilled workers in Canada can be met by Canadian workers, rather than by further immigration of skilled people from outside Canada?

Mr. Atkey: Mr. Speaker, we must be clear on this. The demand for skilled labour in Canada will be met, first and foremost, by Canadians. Canadians will be given an opportunity for the training positions. I may say that my department will give a new emphasis, which the previous government was