

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not read the text of the remarks to which my hon. friend refers, but I speak for the Ministry in the statements I have just made. They represent the views of the Government of Canada, that we welcome and encourage peace activists in every walk of life across Canada. We think that their activity is honourable, and we encourage them at all times.

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[Translation]

SHIPBUILDING

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Defence I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Is the Prime Minister prepared to confirm that, although it has Davie Shipbuilding Limited in Lauzon, Quebec, for instance, the Government intends to place orders outside the country for the construction of new ships for our navy?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): I am not sure I fully understood my hon. friend's question. However, I shall bring it to the attention of the Minister. In any case, I can assure you that as far as I understood the question, that is not what the Government intends to do.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence is never in the House. May I repeat the question?

Notwithstanding the existence in Quebec of Davie Shipbuilding Limited which would be able to fill orders for military purposes, is the Prime Minister prepared to confirm today that the Government now intends to go outside the country to place orders for new ships for our navy?

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. We will always use our own shipyards whenever possible.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

SOCIAL PROGRAMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Contrary to what was said by the Opposition and certain media, social programs will be maintained by our Government.

Could the Minister repeat before the House the commitment he gave last Tuesday, namely, that old age security pensions, the guaranteed income supplement and the spouse's allowance will be increased according to the increase in the cost of living and that people drawing benefits under the

Canada Pension Plan will get a 4.4 per cent increase early in 1985?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the regular indexing of the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, and family allowance will be increased as of January 1, 1985, and the Canada Pension Plan will also be increased 4.4 per cent relative to inflation for the last year.

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EMPLOYMENT

SUMMER JOBS FOR STUDENTS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Minister is on record promising that our youth will have a summer work program. Today is the last day of the session. For the first time in decades, the Minister of Employment of this country has not announced a government summer job plan before the Christmas break. The youth of the country are wondering where the Minister's priorities are, because our youth need jobs. Is the Minister planning to announce today how many new summer jobs there will be, by which programs, and for how much money? Is the Minister prepared to answer those questions and to tell us what the mechanism is so that there will be summer youth jobs in time?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, for the first time the Minister of Employment and Immigration of this country has been consulting with provincial Governments, the private sector, business and labour, in order to come up with summer programs for young people that will be meaningful and that will give them an opportunity to lead to permanent jobs. I can assure the Hon. Member, as I have assured the House on other occasions, that those programs will be in effect for next summer.

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I wish the Minister would stop lecturing. The youth of this country want lectures from professors, not from you.

Miss MacDonald: I am sorry, you will have to repeat your supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Member have a question?

Mrs. Finestone: Concretely, can the Minister announce today her summer job plans to create jobs for youth? Today. Never mind the consultations.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: She gets her training in Mount Royal.