

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the financing application was filed with Treasury Board, and I think it is that Department's role to ascertain the legal propriety of commission financing. Whatever your assessment may be, and I think it is a rather hasty one because the Commission has yet to submit its report, I think the entire procedure was perfectly normal and it is normal that Canadians who contribute to an insurance fund should help to assess the system with a view to improving it. I think that is perfectly normal.

[English]

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister on the same subject. How can the Government justify spending in this fashion money which would otherwise go to the unemployed? Is this not like asking the lambs to pay for the slaughter?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, that is entirely beside the point. The unemployment insurance benefits of recipients are in no way concerned here. There is no question of reducing in any way what these people have received. There is no connection whatsoever.

[English]

REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE FUND

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are very upset by the use of that money in this fashion.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. McDonald: Since these objections have been raised by the unemployed themselves, will he reimburse the fund so that no unemployed person will be injured by the Forget Commission, as the Government itself promised?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I repeat what I said earlier. Canadians agree that we should assess the unemployment insurance system and make the necessary improvements. It is quite normal that Canadians as a whole should contribute to this fund. I think this is perfectly acceptable and generally accepted.

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—ECONOMIC
COUNCIL'S PROJECTION

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. As indicated by the Prime Minister, the Economic Council of Canada stated that if we enter into a trade agreement with the U.S. it could very well result in a gross increase of some 375,000 jobs by 1995. Will the Minister advise the House if, according to the Government's own calculations, there will be a net increase or net decrease in employment and, if so, by how much?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the report was just released today. I have not had a chance to examine it in any great depth so I cannot respond directly to the Hon. Member's question. I would like to point out that the report indicates that Canada's future lies in such trade talks, and maintains that it would benefit all sectors of the economy.

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[Translation]

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CANADIAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY'S REQUEST—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister. In a telegram to the Prime Minister the Canadian Chemical Society states, and I quote, that "there will never be another Nobel Prize awarded in Canada if the Prime Minister goes ahead and tears down the scientific foundation which was built up over decades". So my question to the Prime Minister is this: Will he promise to agree to the request made to him by this society, namely to save the agency which has contributed to the training of Nobel Prize laureate John Polanyi?

[English]

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out to the House on Thursday, Dr. Polanyi did the work which led to his Nobel Prize at a university which will be one of the main beneficiaries of a program we have put in place which will produce \$1 billion of new funding over the next five years.

Mr. Berger: Mr. Speaker, where is the Prime Minister hiding? Why does he not answer a question that was directed to him, not to one of his lackeys?

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order. Hon. Members know that the Prime Minister may answer a question, may not answer a question, or allow a Minister to answer a question. A proper supplementary