

Oral Questions

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, since these cuts do come from the Canadian Jobs Strategy, will the Government undertake not to forget about the people of Hamilton but to restore the \$1 million which was cut from this program so that this very successful program can go ahead?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Government has no intention of forgetting about the people of Hamilton or those of any other part of Canada for that matter. As I said, the comments which the Hon. Member has made are very serious. I would like to look into them and get back to her as soon as I possibly can.

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AIRPORTS

OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I am pleased that the renovations to the Ottawa International Airport are almost complete, as I am sure are all Members in the House. The renovations are on budget, albeit a bit behind schedule.

However, the maintenance of the grounds around the airport, especially in the parking area, is a mess. Visitors coming to the capital for the first time do not receive a good impression. Will the Minister of Transport crack his transport whip, shall I say, to ensure that the grounds are better maintained immediately?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly make a commitment to the Hon. Member to that effect. With regard to parking, I understand that there are 1,600 parking spaces provided. The contractor was occupying about 100 spaces until 14 days ago but they are now available to the public. I will look into the question of landscaping and maintenance of airport grounds.

We are all pleased, of course, that the renovations and improvements to the airport are now being completed. We will certainly look into the hon. gentleman's suggestion.

● (1500)

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

BLACK WATCH REGIMENT—QUEEN MOTHER'S VISIT—ROLE OF WOMEN PERSONNEL

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe the utter hypocrisy of the NDP in asking a question about the Canadian Jobs Strategy when they know that they would not even allow opposition Members of Parliament to have access to information on this issue. However, that is not my question.

My question is directed to the Minister responsible for supermailboxes and deals with a promise made by the Minister of National Defence in the House last week. Last week the Minister promised that women would be marching in the Black Watch march last Saturday. In fact, women were not allowed to march. Apparently the so-called order of the Minister of National Defence was overruled. I want to ask the Minister responsible for superboxes, who is acting on behalf of the Minister of National Defence, just who gave Perrin Beatty his marching orders anyway?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Acting Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether that type of question, considering all the admonitions in Beauchesne, should be answered. However, because it is an important question when stripped of all the ridiculous garbage surrounding it, let me say that women participated in the Guard of Honour which met Her Majesty on June 4. They participated in the quarter guard on her departure on June 8. Between those two occasions there were seven other occasions when women and men participated together in respect of the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Ms. Copps: The fact is that female cadets were not allowed to march and that their participation occurred when one of the male cadets fainted and a woman had to come out to recover his rifle.

NON-PARTICIPATION IN MARCH

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday in the House the Minister of National Defence promised the House that women would be marching in the Black Watch ceremony. Last Saturday, those women were pulled off parade. Who gave the Minister his marching orders, and who is running this Department anyway?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Acting Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as I have just told the Hon. Member, I am informed that on nine different occasions in parades of various sorts in association with the Royal visit—

Ms. Copps: Not trooping the colours.

Mr. Andre: —men and women participated together. There was one occasion in which only the infantry and not the rest of the regiment participated in one parade. It so happens that