

## GOVERNMENT DOWNSIZING

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board.

The February 1991 budget outlined plans for eliminating layers of management in the government and eliminating at least 475 executive jobs, or 10 per cent. This was to be done over two years. Since over a year has passed, I would like to know what progress has been made.

Second, because the recession has been much worse than anyone anticipated, many large and small companies have had to take further tough steps to slash costs and cut more employees. In light of the long and brutal nature of this recession, is the Treasury Board planning even tougher measures to eliminate more management jobs in government?

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to report through you to the hon. member that we are actually on course.

As of January 31, 1992, the executive group population has decreased by 320, that is 67 per cent of the reduction that was announced by my colleague, the Minister of Finance. We are, of course, continuing the downsizing, and we will have reached our target by April 1, 1993.

As for the last part of the hon. member's question, I would say that we are reviewing all our operations on an ongoing basis to make sure that they are very cost effective. We do not have any particular plan of more de-layering, except that we announced in the last budget the downsizing of a lot of agencies. We are proceeding with that.

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## THE ENVIRONMENT

**Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

A mere five weeks from today, the United Nations Conference on Environment Development begins in Brazil. The success of this conference may well determine the survival of the planet. Because of the importance of this meeting, I am pleased the Prime Minister will lead the Canadian delegation. In contrast, the

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American President has indicated that it is doubtful that he will attend.

Will the Prime Minister tell this House if he has been in contact with the President to urge him to reconsider and attend this crucial conference?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I can only imagine what the reaction of the socialists would be if the President of the United States called the Prime Minister of Canada and tried to tell him what to do.

To save my socialist friends from any further anguish, which I like to do from time to time, I can assure my hon. friend that I have in the past discussed with the President and with other G-7 leaders the desirability of their presence at this very important event. I know that President Bush, like President Mitterrand, Chancellor Kohl and others with whom I have spoken, are hopeful of attending. They will make their own decisions pursuant to their own national agendas and national requirements.

**Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that this issue is beyond partisan politics. My supplementary question is for the Prime Minister.

Tomorrow in New York there will be an urgent last ditch attempt to reach a legally binding international agreement on climate change. The U.S. is objecting to any commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. In fact, it even objects to the term climatic change. The U.S. is putting the rest of the world in peril because of its inaction on this issue.

What actions will the Prime Minister and the government take to make sure the world will not suffer by a failure to reach this crucial agreement?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend says that the question of the environment is beyond partisan politics. She may be right but this will come as a great surprise to the member for Skeena. Although I tend to agree with her personally. I think that the environment is indeed a question that ought to be treated beyond partisan politics.

I take good note of the observations of my hon. friend. I think the Minister of the Environment has prepared, in co-operation with the NGOs, the provinces and so on, a good delegation that will represent Canada's interests and the interests of our friends and allies effectively and