

Oral Questions

Members of this House that the bonuses were paid for the year ending May 1983. Furthermore, the bonuses are paid to ensure that this aircraft manufacturing company will be viable and sound. If we want sound management and expert research teams that will safeguard the jobs of company workers, as this Government has always insisted on doing, we must be able to offer competitive salaries to the managers of such companies.

[English]

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely incredible. Any other corporation that had the kind of record that de Havilland had last year would have fired its senior executives rather than paying them bonuses.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Last year de Havilland lost \$236 million which the Canadian people had to pay. I would like to ask the Minister about government policy. Can he give us an explanation for government policies which look after the need to pay bonuses to these senior executives while, at the same time, there are 1.5 million Canadians without jobs, and thousands of students coming out of our colleges and universities hoping to get work during the summer months but who simply cannot find work? What is the explanation for paying off one group and ignoring the other? Where is the Government's sense of priority?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member seems to forget that the Government has always been consistent regarding the billions of dollars it invests to provide jobs for those who have trouble finding work and especially for the young people graduating from our universities. When the Hon. Member's party was in power, the first thing it did was to cut back on this kind of investment and on programs to provide jobs for young people.

Furthermore, her party has always criticized the Government's support for companies like Canadair and de Havilland. We, as a government, have always supported the development of these corporations, and we are now safeguarding the jobs in those corporations while the Opposition is criticizing the Government's action.

[English]

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, that explanation does not go down with the 1.5 million people who are unemployed. I must tell you it does not even go down with the Minister's colleague, the Minister of State for Economic and Regional Development.

CANADA DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT CORPORATION—
PAYMENT OF EXECUTIVE BONUSES

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, bonuses were also paid to senior executives of the Canada Development Investment Corporation, the company which controls de Havilland. When the spokesman for CDIC was asked about this he said that the payment of these cash gifts—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Reading of material on a second supplementary should be very restricted.

Miss MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The spokesman for that company said that it was due to the fact that these senior executives had had an extremely hard year. If that is the rationale why these people received a special bonus, would the Minister please tell me what special bonuses can be expected for the unemployed, for the single, elderly poor, and for the one parent families headed by mothers? What can he tell us about the rationale for these people who also have gone through an extremely hard year?

● (1420)

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the Hon. Member is a bit mixed up.

If she wants to argue about this Government's social programs, she should go right ahead and criticize the millions of dollars the last Budget provided for single pensioners. Let her criticize the hundreds of millions of dollars that have been added to many of this Government's social programs and job creation programs.

Now, if the Hon. Member also wishes to criticize this Government's policies aimed at revamping the financial situation of corporations such as de Havilland and Canadair, let her do so, by all means. However, our objective is to ensure that these companies are commercially viable and to maintain an aviation industry in Canada that is technologically superior.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Cambridge.

Mr. Speyer: Mr. Speaker, my question was intended for the Minister of Justice who is expected but is not in his seat. I wonder if I may stand down.

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FINANCE

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF TAX ON FARM FUELS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. We noticed that many of his colleagues were in western Canada on the weekend making promises about what they would do for the West. I notice that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has