

Garry, when he was Minister of Transport, had 85 people on his payroll, and he was only pretending to be Prime Minister.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

ESTIMATES FOR 1986-87

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think that we are really interested in what other people have done.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Johnston:** Yesterday it was Mr. Pearson and Mr. Trudeau. It will be R. B. Bennett and Mackenzie King tomorrow. The people of Canada are interested in seeing what kind of an example this Prime Minister will set. He told us that this increase would be temporary. He has already indicated today that there has been some slight reduction. If it is to be temporary, could we please see the spending plans of the Prime Minister's Office for next year? Interestingly enough, those spending plans were not published with these Estimates as they were in our Estimates. Could we have those plans for the year 1986-87 tabled in the House, so that we can all satisfy ourselves that this increase is indeed temporary?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is nice to see that the finance critic, the Hon. Member for Westmount—

**Mr. Johnston:** Saint-Henri-Westmount.

**Mr. Mulroney:** The Hon. Member for Saint-Henri-Westmount—have you decided which area you live in yet?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** It has to be Westmount because the people of Saint-Henri did not vote for you. We won every poll in Saint-Henri, but we lost the top of the mountain.

**An Hon. Member:** In the big houses.

**Mr. Mulroney:** That is right. I was right there next to the family of the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Speaker:** With great respect, the remarks of the front-benchers are getting longer and longer today. I wonder if we could all agree to shorten it up.

**Mr. Mulroney:** I will be happy to provide the information to my hon. friend as best I can. We will provide the information just as quickly as it becomes available.

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**BANK OF CANADA**

INTEREST RATE INCREASE

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I have just learned that the

*Oral Questions*

Bank of Canada announced another major increase in the bank rate of more than one-half of a percentage point. This is the fifth week in a row in which interest rates have risen. It has been estimated that, for each full percentage point increase in the interest rate, we lose 25,000 jobs. That means that in the last five weeks 50,000 jobs have been negatively affected because the Government continues to pursue the same old Liberal high interest rate policy. Why is the Government pursuing this high interest rate policy?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, we are not following the same policies as the previous Government. Many commentators have indicated that we are not doing so and that they support the approach that we have taken.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Which commentators? Leave Bouey out of this.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Let me remind the Hon. Member again that we are in a very, very unusual situation here with the extremely strong performance of the United States dollar. If I could, I would like to read two sentences from a press release that was issued by the Bank of Canada about 20 minutes ago. They read as follows:

To attempt to avoid any decline in the exchange rate in this period would have required very much higher interest rates. To attempt to suppress any rise in interest rates would have led to an intolerable fall in the Canadian dollar.

What we and the Bank of Canada are trying to do is to follow a balanced policy in order to try to inject a degree of stability and confidence into the market so that we can, in due course, get interest rates down from these levels to the point at which I think both of us agree they should be.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, when the Minister sat on this side of the House, he used to hear Marc Lalonde say the same thing as the Minister said this afternoon. We now have Liberals in blue suits on the other side of the House. That is the only difference.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Since the Minister's boss, the Prime Minister, said during the summer that if he had to choose—

**Mr. Dingwall:** Is that a Coppertone tan, Ed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member is entitled to put his question. Order, please. All Members putting questions are entitled to be heard.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Obviously the Liberals are a little sensitive about these things, Mr. Speaker.

During the summer, in the context of an election, the Prime Minister said that if he had to choose between a dropping dollar and increasing interest rates, he would accept the drop-