

PROJECTIONS OF IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Prime Minister will recall that he stated in Kingston, in August of this year, that one of the trademarks of the Liberal Party was stonewalling and secrecy. He went on to say that: "The reason for government secrecy today..." that day "... is to keep vital information from the Canadian public."

With that in mind, and given that there will be a number of Canadians who will lose their jobs as a result of the economic statement and measures contained in it, does the Prime Minister not consider that that information, with the projections which led the Government to discount the importance of the loss of their jobs, is vital information to which they should be given access?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Minister of Finance indicated yesterday that the model to which the hon. gentleman refers does not bring about or indicate an increase in unemployment in fiscal year 1985-86; rather, that it is the reverse. That is the case.

● (1425)

There is another point, no less legitimate I hope, that he should reflect upon. The Minister has explained his intention to try to be as helpful and forthcoming in all of these areas, but there is another principle that I would ask the Hon. Member to reflect upon, and that is the need for senior civil servants to be able to communicate in writing with their Ministers on a variety of points of view based on partial data from time to time, and not have that information form the basis of partisan debate. I think it is an important principle that the Minister be able to have this data from within the Department.

Mr. Blaikie: Right on Pierre.

Mr. de Jong: What a ridiculous reason. Sit down.

Mr. Mulroney: It happens that the Minister has acknowledged readily the point to which the Hon. Member refers, but we do not take the sad view that the Hon. Member espouses. We believe that our program, when you factor in investor confidence and consumer confidence, is going to result in a handsome increase in employment, and that is what it is all about.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

EMPLOYMENT OF LAWYERS BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has misunderstood what the Minister said yesterday. The Minister said yesterday that there would be a loss of jobs in 1986 as a result of the economic statement.

Mr. Broadbent: That is right.

Oral Questions

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister, if I may, why it is that the public of Canada, the ordinary Canadians, who will lose their jobs as a result of the Government's measures, must wait for some projected, maybe, opportunity to regain employment in the private sector, while the Government moves, using public funds, to provide jobs for its 500 PC lawyer friends who are already well endowed with income and do not require access to the public trough? Why do ordinary Canadians have to wait for the private sector while Tory back-bench Members are able to hand out patronage appointments to Tory lawyers?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Now I understand the question, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: It is about time.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, in point of fact that economic statement, as the Member quite properly knows, and as other members of the Opposition have indicated, will lead not to less jobs but to more jobs—

Mr. Deans: Less jobs.

Mr. Mulroney: —in this country for everybody, including NDP lawyers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DETENTION OF CANADIAN JOURNALIST IN INDIA

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs. As I know the usual good intentions of the Minister, I am hoping he is not completely under the thumb of the reactionary element in his Party—

Mr. Crosbie: What about you?

Mr. Chrétien: —and that he will take heed of the Tories friendly *Globe and Mail* which in its columns is asking the Government to reconsider the CIDA cuts of yesterday. I hope too, because I know he is very much preoccupied with his good relations with the press, that he will stop the crazy "Yukon Erik" gag imposed on his distinguished Department.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: Why is the Minister refusing to help the Canadian journalist, Jonathan Mann, who is incarcerated in