

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Berger:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister, I think, recognizes the gravity of the problem. Why must he wait for the end of the fiscal year? Why can he not announce immediately the programs which he said he has?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we have not waited until the end of the fiscal year. We continue to take very substantial and serious action. For example, in the current fiscal year we have committed \$700 million directly to youth employment and job-training programs, this at a time when we have been forced, because of the profligacy of our Liberal friends, to cut back and to bring some sense of sanity to the public finances. This \$700 million represents 37 per cent of the entire budget of the Department of Employment and Immigration and 44 per cent of the clients served by that Department. Some 219,000 young Canadians will benefit from that. That is good news.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** A very short supplementary, and not a repetition, please.

**Mr. Berger:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Youth said on February 3 in the House that there will be new programs announced very soon.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Berger:** My question to the Prime Minister is—

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the Hon. Member please ask a question immediately?

**Mr. Berger:** "Very soon" was six weeks ago. Will the Prime Minister immediately announce the new programs the Government says it has?

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain.

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**THE ADMINISTRATION**

## RESIGNATION OF FORMER MINISTER OF FISHERIES

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. When the former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans resigned over the tuna matter—

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

**Mr. Deans:**—were the circumstances as were stated at the time, that the Minister offered his resignation and it was accepted, or is the new version the correct version as stated by the Prime Minister in an interview with *The New York Times* that "When it was brought to my attention, bang! Immediate-

ly the Minister's resignation was secured". Which is the right version?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I know I am back in the House and members of the NDP have their priorities right.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** Yesterday the bank rate dropped another one-half point, down one-and-three-quarter points in two weeks. The CPI drops today and the boys are wrestling with something that happened, which was on the public record since September of last year.

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

## CIRCUMSTANCES OF RESIGNATION

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, why did the Prime Minister state that the Minister's resignation was secured immediately after he discovered the matter, when he knows full well that he said in the House of Commons that the Minister offered his resignation and it was accepted with regret? Why does the Prime Minister embarrass that Member further by drawing his integrity into question?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have never embarrassed any member of my Party—

**An Hon. Member:** Ask Joe Clark!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Nor have I embarrassed an Hon. Member on the other side. My friend, the Hon. Member for Vancouver South, is an outstanding Member of Parliament.

**Mr. Deans:** That is right, I agree.

**Mr. Mulroney:** If the divergent—  
[Translation]

And speaking of divergent views, where is Mr. Chrétien today? What a shame he left! You may be glad to be rid of him now, but I would be careful if I were you.

[English]

I acknowledge that there may have been divergences in regard to interpretations placed upon your resignation.

## PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to follow up on the same question as that asked by the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister obviously becomes very sensitive when he gets caught in his own trap of giving two conflicting reports. Will the Prime Minister now admit to the House—

**Mr. Nunziata:** He's a liar.