

*Oral Questions*

**An Hon. Member:** Come on, Ed.

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

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**ENERGY**

## PRICE OF GASOLINE

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Yesterday the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said that part of the decrease in world oil prices had been passed along to the consumers in a two-cent per litre reduction at the pumps. I want to know why only part of the saving has been passed along to the consumers? And why do we have to wait so many weeks for further benefits?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, has answered this question any number of times in the House, including yesterday. She pointed out that there is oil in the system, that the price decline reflects earlier declines, and we would expect that recent declines will be reflected as well.

**Mr. MacLellan:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has never answered this question, never.

## WHOLESALE PRICE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Will the Minister of State for Finance tell me and this House why the Canadian wholesale market price for Canadian products in Canada is kept artificially high when the market price for refined products in the United States is going down? Will the Minister tell the consumers why this is happening? And will she tell the independent retailers why this is happening?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, we have no evidence that there is an artificially high price for petroleum products in the Canadian system, absolutely none, and I do not think the Hon. Member has, either.

If the Hon. Member knew how the market works, he would not need to ask this question any more. It has been answered any number of times by my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

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**LABOUR CONDITIONS**

## UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In spite of the Government's claim of an outstanding record in job creation, Statistics Canada shows that there has

been a drop in the real unemployment rate from 10.9 per cent to only 10.7 per cent since the Conservatives were elected back in September of 1984.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Come on. You are really straining.

**Mr. Nystrom:** And there has actually been a loss of 149,000 full-time jobs since the election of her Party. In light of this information, how can the Minister justify cutting \$100 million from the Canadian Jobs Strategy when there has been a real loss of 149,000 jobs since September of 1984—full-time jobs?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Your nose is getting a little longer.

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, what is happening in this House is that we have "Statistics Allmand", "Statistics Nystrom", and I am well content to stay with Statistics Canada.

**Mr. Crosbie:** How is that nose now?

**Miss MacDonald:** Statistics Canada reported this morning that the unemployment rate has stayed below 10 per cent, and that since September of 1984 almost 580,000 new jobs have been created.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Oh, they don't like that.

**Miss MacDonald:** It is widely spread across the country; in all regions, in all age groups, and in all sectors. We know it has to improve, and that is why the Minister of Finance brought in the Budget he did, and we will see improvement again.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Mr. Speaker, I am talking about real Canadians, not seasonally adjusted Canadians.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Right on.

## ELIMINATION OF YOUTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Would the Minister explain why her Government eliminated the entire budget of the Department of Youth when youth unemployment has gone up since the election of the Conservative Party in September of 1984, in real terms, from 17.5 per cent to 18.1 per cent?

● (1140)

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate for young people is 16.4 per cent—down two full percentage points since we came to office. This means there are an additional 50,000 young people who are at work today who were not at work in September of 1984.

I have already said we do not think that is good enough. We want to continue that progress, which is why we are putting \$700 million of funding into youth employment programs this year. We expect that at the end of the year, Sir, you will see even better progress than we have had to date.