

Oral Questions

[English]

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S
REFERENCE TO DISCIPLINING PEOPLE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister related to a story by Val Sears in last Sunday's *Star*. What methods or techniques did the Prime Minister have in mind in terms of disciplining Canadians when he indicated—and I am quoting, now—that “If they don't discipline themselves we shall discipline them as we did with the controls.”

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): A very simple example, and one easy to understand, would be that of the controls themselves—controls which the Leader of the Opposition is asking be removed.

Mr. Alexander: Can the Prime Minister be more definite and tell us where, in his opinion, the people of Canada have failed and in what areas they need discipline? Would he not agree that there is need for discipline to be applied to his own government, some members of which do not understand what discipline means—I have in mind flying on airplanes around the country, and so on.

Mr. Trudeau: Another simple example could be found in the first half of 1975 when there was double digit inflation and when the average increase in wage rates was some 21 per cent, much higher than the rate of growth of the economy. At that time we tried to get agreement on voluntary restraint; we did not get it and we brought in controls. That is an example of the kind of discipline the state must impose when the private decision-makers do not exercise restraint. As far as government spending is concerned, I would remind the hon. member that today, under Standing Order 43, we have heard two motions by important members of his party calling upon the government to spend more money.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT'S VIEW OF GERMANY'S POSITION ON
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Mr. F. E. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the government to develop and express a position in respect of the latest round of international terrorism involving kidnappings and hijackings? More particularly, is it the intention of the government to issue a statement with respect to the dilemma in which the Federal Republic of Germany now finds itself? Has it expressed sympathy with, and support for, that government's firm position against international terrorism and is the minister prepared to say something publicly on this aspect?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I welcome the hon. member's question because it

[Miss Bégin.]

does give me an opportunity to place on the record not only the position of the Government of Canada but, I am sure, of all members of this House. The Government of Canada condemns totally the use of terrorism and sympathizes with, and understands fully the attitude and approach of the government of West Germany. I wish to convey the sympathy of the Canadian government and people to those who are affected and to give a full undertaking that we shall seek, in all the international fora we can, to eliminate incidents of this kind. I fear there is nothing which Canada can do specifically in this case; it is one which highlights the necessity for an international agreement embracing all countries.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST FOR INCREASED SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM IN
ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It arises from remarks made during the summer by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the former Minister of Regional Economic Expansion describing the DREE program as having failed in combatting regional disparities. In view of that department's frozen budget and mounting unemployment in the four Atlantic provinces, will the Prime Minister clarify the nature of the “new initiatives” he has talked about? For example, has he given an assurance to the four premiers that there will be a major change in support for the DREE program and increased support from other departments so as to effectively combat the increasing unemployment rate in those provinces?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The intention of the government to combat unemployment in those provinces was evident in the creation of the department to which he referred. The hundreds of millions spent in the Atlantic provinces is, of itself, an indication of the government's attempts to bring down unemployment and accelerate economic expansion. However, I cannot give the hon. member the assurance that the government will engage in vastly increased spending programs in that area. The government must show restraint itself as it is asking other Canadians to show restraint.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Has the Prime Minister been in contact with his colleagues or with the provincial premiers with a view to reversing the trend in those four provinces since, obviously, whatever money has been spent, it has not been successful in producing the desired effect?

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. gentleman would not, I am sure, expect me to try to make a commitment. This is an area where the government tries to encourage a greater growth in the economy but we cannot guarantee that the measures taken will work. Very much depends upon what is done by the private sector. There is, also, the question of confidence and the government is doing what it can to create confidence, in