

*Oral Questions*

the minister than any activity on the street. I have three specific questions. How many jobs have been created by that program in Sydney, Cape Breton Island, where the unemployment rate is 22.4 per cent? How many jobs have been created in the Eastern Townships where the unemployment rate is 18.2 per cent? How many jobs have been created in McAdam, New Brunswick, where the unemployment rate is 15.1 per cent? All three of those regions have applied. I should like the minister, or whomever he can call on, to tell those people and me how many actual jobs have been created.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I am glad the hon. member referred to the Industrial Labour Adjustment Program under which the Government of Canada allocated \$350 million to help industry and labour to adjust more effectively to current economic circumstances. Unfortunately I do not have the specific projects for each of the designated areas.

I know, for example, that the industrial adjustment committee in Sydney, Nova Scotia, has been working diligently, and so valuable did it think the program that it requested that labour benefits be extended to the longshoremen of North Sydney and Newfoundland. This past week the cabinet decided to extend the benefits to these affected workers. That is one evidence for the hon. member to appreciate that the program is working effectively. Also I know, for example, that quite a number of members, who represent areas with difficult economic circumstances, have asked that the benefits of the program be extended to their communities. We have been designating communities, as justified, in order to take advantage of this very important program.

● (1220)

## REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF LONG-TERM JOBS

**Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale):** Madam Speaker, the people affected in these areas, hearing the minister, know the air of unreality that has been with us since November 12. I asked the question because you cannot get information. The program was indeed announced. It is worth \$350 million and it was started over a year ago in January. But there is no information because there has been no delivery of the program, or very little. The minister calls it effective with 22.4 per cent unemployed in that area. That is effective? When will the minister and his economic colleagues in the cabinet come forward not with public relations programs but with real live long-term jobs with which people can have some hope for the future?

**Mr. Darling:** Let's hear it.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I am surprised the hon. member describes the Industrial and Labour Adjustment Program as unreal. The fact is that each community which is designated establishes a group of community leaders who are then charged with developing projects and undertaking the

necessary steps to create jobs. I believe that in quite a number of communities a large number of applications have come forward.

**Mr. Crombie:** Lots of applications.

**Mr. MacEachen:** For example, I know that in the city of Brantford where there was a designated community that a large number of applications have been received. I am hopeful that it will be possible to fund the projects there. The government has made available \$350 million to communities that are hard pressed by problems at the present time, permitting them to develop projects and permitting them also to take advantage of these funds. This program is a very important one. I wonder whether the hon. member has a better one in mind.

**Mr. Crombie:** Twenty-two per cent unemployment is very effective?

**Mr. MacEachen:** I remember his leader stated some time ago that whatever options his party had to improve the economy would be kept under wraps until election time.

## SITUATION OF WOMEN WITH FAMILIES

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The unemployment scene in Canada today is a downright tragedy. Some 51,000 women who are heads of single-parent families are unemployed. That is an increase of 25 per cent over the situation a year ago. These women are struggling to provide food, shelter, and clothing for their children. They find prices are up while the number of jobs available is down. Can the minister explain to these people why they must accept the worst of both worlds, that is, higher prices and loss of jobs?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I think the question asked by the hon. member is justified. People are wondering why is it that we are going through such difficult economic circumstances, and indeed we are.

**An hon. Member:** It is the Liberal government.

**Mr. MacEachen:** An hon. member opposite says it is the Liberal government. There is not a Liberal government in the United States—

**An hon. Member:** Thank God!

**Mr. MacEachen:**—which has the same unemployment rate that we have. The United States reached a 9 per cent unemployment rate at the time of its last economic statistics. We reached the 9 per cent rate today. It is not a Liberal government that prevails in France which has a higher unemployment rate than Canada. It is not a Liberal government that exists—

**Mr. Mayer:** There isn't a Liberal government in the world.

**Mr. MacEachen:**—in the United Kingdom where there is a higher unemployment rate.