

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I repeat that we are concerned about unemployment and unemployed people, not only the youth. I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting that we should discriminate against the unemployed who are older in favour of young people.

EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST PROFESSIONALS

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that there are large numbers of unemployed among professional workers in Canada, an indication of the sad state of the Canadian economy, will the Prime Minister take immediate action to publish figures showing the extent of the waste of this most valuable asset?

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask a supplementary question?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to have the Prime Minister answer my question and the one from the hon. member for Calgary North at the same time. It would save him getting up twice.

UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENTAL FORECASTS

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is addressed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is also in charge of the Wheat Board. Is the minister prepared now to make available to hon. members the information he has available in his office which supports the position he took yesterday on national television that there will be a substantial increase in unemployment in Canada over and above what was announced yesterday?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the hon. member is accurately reporting anything that was said. There was an exchange in the House yesterday about figures being available. I have nothing to add to that exchange at this time.

Mr. Stanfield: You have nothing to add, period.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Finance would be willing to make available to the House the information he has available, and the Minister of Labour as well? I understand there is considerable evidence in the cabinet and in the Department of Manpower and Immigration which indicates that the prognosis as far as unemployment is concerned—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked the question.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have no information to make available.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

[Later:]

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is he prepared to table estimates made for unemployment for 1971, month by month, which have been prepared for the government?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, may I refer the hon. member to the exchange which took place in the House yesterday.

INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE—REPAYMENT OF STUDENT LOANS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. It is the same question that I directed to the Prime Minister yesterday and he informed me that the Minister of Finance would be in the House today. The question concerns loans to students who are graduating and are unable to meet their liability within the six months. Are the Minister of Finance and the government prepared to extend the time for payment until those students who cannot find work are employed?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, there are provisions under the Canada student loans plan whereby the banks making the loans can extend the repayment period up to ten years and they can also delay the time of the initial payment if they so desire. The period can also be extended beyond ten years upon application to the Department of Finance in special circumstances.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might follow up that matter. The information I have from the students at Calgary University and other universities is that pressure is being brought to bear on them by the banks. Will the minister take to heart the welfare of the students and take them out of the hands of the banks?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, the funds were borrowed from the banks. If my hon. friend will give me specific instances, I will be pleased to take them up with the banks.

UNEMPLOYMENT—ALLEGED STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION INDICATING INCREASE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration in connection with some remarks he made on radio and television last night. Does he not admit that he told the Canadian people during the dialogue he had with the press that he expected that there would be an increment in unemployment in the next few months? Did he not say that, or did the media not record his statement correctly?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask him, did he not say that?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. gentleman will no doubt recognize that the question is asked in a