

Oral Questions

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss it with other members of the House, perhaps most usefully, after the Beaudoin-Edwards report has been tabled, although I would be prepared to enter into discussions before that time.

What I am looking for is a way that would make it clear that the powers of decision at the end of the day would rest with members of the House of Commons and the Senate, but that we would recognize that there are some groups in the country whose interest in this process requires them to be treated as more than simply witnesses and that there is a need for some way for them to be heard very fully and with an opportunity to exchange views with members of the committee.

Those are the goals we are seeking. I am seeking to combine the best elements of a parliamentary system with the best elements of more populist approaches, and I very much need the help of the hon. member and others in the House in designing that kind of system.

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs.

Given his response to my colleague, I am wondering as we are both members of the Beaudoin-Edwards committee—the committee has worked very hard. It is working each night this week until 10 o'clock at night in drafting the report—if the minister would be willing to come before the committee to ensure that the Beaudoin-Edwards committee report is as worth-while an exercise as we all hope it will be.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if the members of the committee think it would be useful for me to meet with them, I would be delighted to meet with them.

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CITY OF WINNIPEG

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister.

For several months, Winnipeggers have been waiting for a federal plan to rebuild and revitalize the economy of their city. Instead of action, we have had the end of

the core area initiative. We have had the unemployment rate double. We have had several thousand aboriginal families living in abject poverty, and still there is absolutely no word from the federal government.

When will the people of Winnipeg hear from the federal government about the plan to save jobs in our city?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the federal government has dealt with this issue on a number of fronts.

First and foremost, it is important to bring inflation down. We are doing that. It is important to bring the deficit down. We are doing that.

It is having an effect on reducing interest rates which, in turn, is spurring investment, housing sales and housing starts. These are the kinds of broad macropolicies that are required in order to get the economy revitalized.

In the agriculture sector, and we recognize that Winnipeg is indeed a very important city in relation to the agriculture sector, we have brought forward a new agriculture policy which will provide security and a safety net for the producers which in turn has a very good impact upon the total economy of Manitoba, and indeed all of rural Canada.

I think what is happening right now is that the fundamental policy changes that we have implemented are having an effect. We stand by our projections of a buoyant growth in 1992 with growth reappearing in the second half of this year.

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the only thing that this government has reduced has been the size of the city economy. It has not done anything in terms of its macropolicy.

Let me ask the same minister a supplementary question about a specific project.

Winnipeg is ready to expand its Convention Centre into a complex that will act as a major boost to the tourism industry. Twenty years ago, the Liberal government was there to help start this project.

Presently there has been no word from this government. In fact, this government has refused to help the Convention Centre and with its expenses of this project.