

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member resume his seat. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Don Valley in a moment. I thought I should caution hon. members that we should attempt not to get involved in a general debate as we did yesterday.

An hon. Member: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest we should not and should attempt to give an opportunity to other members who are anxious to ask questions. From the point of view of the Chair, that is the only consideration I have in mind. A number of hon. members are anxious to ask questions. For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Don Valley.

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Finance. Have he or officials of his department calculated what the unemployment rate would be had the provinces of Ontario and Quebec not been following such expansionary fiscal policies?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FISCAL MEASURES TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. In light of the fact that employment in agriculture is down by some 20,000 people compared with January, 1972, will the minister indicate whether he is going to undertake any new fiscal measures to stimulate employment in the Canadian agricultural industry?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am in touch with the very progressive and ambitious Minister of Agriculture who makes that point—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: And very talkative, too.

An hon. Member: Aggressive and confused.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): He makes that point in far more succinct terms than the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Murta: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether there will be any specific employment measures for the agricultural sector in the budget, and whether the government has reversed its policy with regard to reducing manpower in agriculture?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to accept the argument within the question, but I hope the hon. gentleman is here on the night of February 19.

Mr. Baldwin: We will be here for the vote anyway.

Mr. Sharp: He doesn't care about the budget, he just cares about the vote.

Oral Questions

UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL IN NEXT FEW MONTHS

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the disclosure yesterday that one of the reasons the unemployment insurance fund went over the ceiling was the inability of the minister's department to forecast the unemployment level properly, can the minister indicate whether he has corrected that situation and is now in a position to indicate what the unemployment level will be in the next few months?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have never been in the business of forecasting.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Who is the next leader of the Liberal party?

Mr. Peters: This is going to be some budget.

Mr. Saltzman: Mr. Speaker, in view of the disastrous consequences of the minister's complacency, will he give some attention to forecasting?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—SUGGESTED ALLOTMENT OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT IN QUEBEC

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance.

After the publication of the latest figures on unemployment which indicate that unemployment is more than 10 per cent in Quebec, could he tell the House whether he intends to earmark additional funds for the Local Initiatives Program in Quebec in order to contribute with the people to stop unemployment?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am still considering the representations made by the hon. member.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Does the hon. minister mean, as I did not understand his answer, that he is agreeable that an increase of at least \$10 million be included in the budget of the Local Initiatives Program in Quebec?

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT TARGET

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Now that his government has established a new all-time record of having an average of 564,000 Canadians out of work for 12 straight months—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member knows that questions should not be prefaced in this way. Hon. members know they should ask questions and not