

*Oral Questions***EMPLOYMENT****APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTER REQUESTED**

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, on Monday of this week a press release was issued by the office of the Minister of Employment and Immigration designating the week of November 1 to November 7 as Canada Career Week.

It is sad that on a day when the over-all level of unemployment has passed the 1.25 million mark, when the number of discouraged Canadians who have given up even looking for work is estimated to have risen some 95 per cent on a year-to-year-basis, when the vast majority of the potential work force of Canada is thinking not in terms of a career but just in terms of a job, a pay cheque—anything—one really must condemn the Minister's slip out of reality, passing through his own private looking-glass to the happier, more pleasant domains of the land of make-believe.

I therefore move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Timiskaming (Mr. MacDougall):

That the Right Hon. Prime Minister be requested to bring in, in his place, a minister of employment and immigration who is at least aware of what is going on in the country around him.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

WELFARE**ALL-PARTY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister who will be aware that over the next nine months over 600,000 Canadians will be exhausting their unemployment insurance benefits and be forced to go on welfare or take other extreme action. The Prime Minister will know that today, and every day this month, 175 Canadians a day are already being forced to turn to welfare because their unemployment insurance benefits have run out.

The Prime Minister has recently spoken of co-operation. He would know about the all-party report on federal-provincial fiscal relations in Canada. In the spirit of co-operation and of helping Canadians in need, will the Prime Minister agree now to accept the all-party committee recommendations, first, to create a special job-creation fund for those provinces where the welfare rolls are higher than average and, second, to increase

the federal government's contribution to the Canada Assistance Plan in those provinces?

• (1425)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has drawn attention to a very serious problem affecting the country, the economic performance and, certainly, the welfare of thousands of people. The Government has been addressing this question very seriously in the past weeks. The Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Minister of Finance particularly have enjoined the Government to act in this direction.

I cannot assure the Leader of the Opposition that we will follow exactly the ways recommended by the all-party committee, but I do want to assure him that that problem will be addressed no later than today by the Minister of Finance and, on subsequent occasions, by the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, it is the Prime Minister who is in the practice of drawing attention to problems. I have drawn attention to two specific solutions that were proposed unanimously by an all-party committee of this House. It is time that the Prime Minister of Canada, instead of simply outlining the problems of the country, began to address specific solutions to those problems.

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FINANCE**CAPITAL COST ALLOWANCES—REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN BUDGET PROVISIONS**

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Let me make another specific, constructive proposal to the Prime Minister and see if he will respond to it. The Prime Minister will know that the budget provisions of his Government have driven billions of dollars of investment out of the country and have caused the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs. In light of the number of jobs lost to his policies, will the Prime Minister agree to change the budget provisions in his Government's budget respecting capital cost allowances as a means of generating jobs and growth in the country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition misunderstood my answer. I did not intend merely to indicate that I was aware of the problems of which the Leader of the Opposition is aware. I did say, it seems to me rather clearly, that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Employment and Immigration would be bringing forward solutions to those problems. I pointed out that they might not be exactly the ones recommended by the Leader of the Opposition but, as he knows, there will be an occasion to debate those solutions. I can assure him that, if his solutions are better than ours, we will adopt them and we will be very happy for his co-operation.