

Expansion, perhaps to assist the Minister of Finance in discussions with his provincial colleagues. Has the minister had time to read and assess the report of the Atlantic Development Council of January, 1971, which sets out its conclusions and recommendations for the development of Atlantic Canada? If so, when can he tell the House how much of that report will be a government objective?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I certainly have read it. It is an excellent report and I agree with a good deal of it. As for consultation, it has begun with three of the four Atlantic province premiers and two out of the three prairies province premiers and I am hoping to consult with the remainder within the next few weeks and that there will be some disclosure. I will be taking part in the debate on the address and will give the hon. member some details at that time, I trust.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT—SUGGESTED PRESENTATION OF NEW ECONOMIC STRATEGY TO MEET PROBLEM

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. As present indications would lead us to believe that unemployment for January will exceed the 650,000 in January of last year, which certainly makes this an emergency situation is the minister prepared to participate in the current debate before the House and take advantage of that occasion to present to the House a new economic strategy to meet the critical situation in the country?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. gentleman's preamble does not turn out to be the case. In any event, I will be participating in the debate and, as I said earlier and as the Prime Minister repeated earlier this morning, I want to bring down a budget at the earliest opportunity.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT DEFINITION OF FULL EMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance a question about the unemployment situation. Can he inform the House what the government's definition is, for its own policy-making purposes, of full employment? Even now we do not know what that definition is.

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to try to do that. The hon. member for Trinity and the hon. member for Don Valley were talking about targets. The Economic Council of Canada suggested, when speaking in terms of targets, that the targets for prices and unemployment needed to be supplemented by 13 or 14 other indicators. My own definition of full employment is a situation in the economy in which every able man or woman legitimately seeking a job can find work.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members will agree that this type of question and that type of answer are

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more in the debate field than belonging to the question period. Having said that, the hon. member may ask a supplementary.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary simply is: what is that definition in percentage terms? Is it 1 per cent, 2 per cent or 3 per cent? What is it?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman does not understand that the definition of full employment is not a statistical target; it is a human target.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baldwin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the minister. Did he say human or inhuman?

**An hon. Member:** Inhuman, as far as this government is concerned.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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[Translation]

#### POST OFFICE

#### VOTE ON CONCILIATION BOARD REPORT—DELEGATION OF OBSERVERS TO MEETINGS OF POSTAL WORKERS

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to that which I directed yesterday to the Postmaster General.

Does he know that meetings will be held in large urban areas following the completion of the postal workers' vote apparently to explain to the union members the real contents of the resolutions on which the vote was held and the steps expected to be taken on their behalf. Could the Postmaster General tell us whether his department will send some observers to those meetings?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, my answer to the first part of the question is yes and it is the same for the second part of the question, if we are invited to those meetings.

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Can the minister tell us whether he has expressed the wish to be invited to those meetings to the union leaders?

[English]

#### INQUIRY AS TO CONCILIATION REPORT ON POSTMASTERS IN SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, arising out of the question I directed to the Postmaster General yesterday. Is he now in a position to indicate when the report will be tabled on the other important discussions going on with reference to the Canadian Postmasters Association?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday in his comments concerning a conciliation report about postmasters, I think the hon. member was