

Oral Questions

There is a continual rejection of an understanding on the part of the New Democratic Party members that that kind of work experience is extraordinarily useful for young people. I do not think it should be condemned as a tactic of this Government.

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It would seem that the Opposition is not interested in asking questions of the Prime Minister on peace-making except when he is away from the House. I would like to congratulate him on his latest trip, which I think is tremendously important.

Mr. Crosbie: Naturally.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: The Hon. Member for Romania.

Mr. McRae: Now that he has pointed out that the emperor, meaning NATO, has no clothes—

Mr. Crosbie: Nor does the Prime Minister.

Mr. McRae:—will he pursue the debate within NATO on whether the first use of nuclear weapons, which could destroy Europe totally, makes a lot of sense as a defence and, if it does not make sense and we have no defence at all, whether some other defence is necessary?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know that the Hon. Member has been a very firm supporter of the Government's peace initiative and I am very grateful for the initiatives he has taken himself in that area.

If I could make a comment on the preamble to the question, I want to point out to him that I did not actually say that the emperor had no clothes. I said that a lot of people were pointing out that the emperor had no clothes—

Mr. Crosbie: Particularly in your Party.

Mr. Trudeau:—including, of course, the Leader of the Conservative Party, who made that point in his December speech in his point No. 5.

Mr. Stevens: That's not so.

Mr. Trudeau: But that has since been repudiated by his fellow members of the Party who are paranoid about anything—

Mr. Stevens: Tell the truth.

Mr. Trudeau:—that a third level official in the United States might say.

I feel that the importance of establishing contact with Warsaw Pact countries is self evident. But for the Tories who always cringe in front of that kind of thing, I would want to remind them that Mrs. Thatcher has gone to Hungary today, presumably in the same spirit of establishing dialogue between NATO and them.

Mr. Stevens: Don't pursue that.

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LABOUR CONDITIONSLOSS OF JOBS IN ONTARIO—THREAT TO EMPLOYED IN
BRUCE-GREY

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. He will know that Ontario is the industrial heartland of Canada. He will also know that Ontario has suffered greatly from Liberal Government policy. Furthermore, he will know that the decline in employment in Canada of 47,000 people in the last month alone is represented in Ontario by 31,000 fewer jobs.

Is he aware that in my area of Bruce-Grey there will be 3,000 fewer jobs in the near future? What is his answer to those men and women, young and old, will lose their jobs? Is he aware of a proposal for an energy centre industrial park that will at least compensate in part for those lost jobs?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, obviously I sympathize with the situation of those people in the Hon. Member's riding who are facing the loss of jobs. I understand, however, that those jobs result fundamentally from a decision of the Ontario Government to close a hydro plant in his constituency. I think this issue should be raised quite strongly by the Hon. Member with the Conservative Government of Ontario in order to see whether he can get it to modify its decision or at least provide some compensation, or other investment, to compensate for the results of its decision.

As far as this Government is concerned, obviously there are a number of programs, of which my hon. friend is aware, in the Department of Employment and Immigration and the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion which are available to Canadians facing situations like the one to which my hon. friend has referred. I would urge him to get in touch with those Departments on behalf of the residents in his constituency to see whether there are any programs which could be used.

Moreover, obviously I would hope that he would act like other Members on this side of the House when they are facing similar situations. They are also spending their time trying to approach private firms and encouraging them to invest in their ridings in order to create jobs and take initiatives. Again, I would invite my hon. friend to use all his power to get his colleagues in the Conservative Government of Ontario to take particular steps in that regard.

Mr. Gurbin: If the Minister examines the situation closely he will find that AECL, a federal Crown corporation, is a very