

he has a point of order. Perhaps he might indicate what it is. I had the impression a moment ago that he was making a statement instead of raising a point of order. He might help the Chair by indicating what his point of order is.

Mr. Lewis: If, Mr. Speaker, the hyenas opposite will keep quiet—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please.

Mr. Lewis: I rise, Mr. Speaker, to say that the unbridled arrogance of the Prime Minister—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: —in the face of this discussion of the most serious situation in the country in some time, in attempting to take over your task and tell Members of Parliament what to do and what not to do is unforgivable.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have some difficulty in understanding how it can be unbridled arrogance for me to attempt to take over your task and appeal for a bit of order so that I can talk economics, whereas it is not unbridled arrogance for the leader of the New Democratic Party to call the members opposite him hyenas.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether we might not try to return to the questions. I know it is the feeling of all—

Mr. Alexander: Never mind the red herrings. Let's get back to the action.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me it is the feeling of all hon. members on both sides of the House that the matter we are discussing is a very important one. I know hon. members are anxious to ask questions. A moment ago I saw quite a few members seeking to ask supplementaries and I am anxious to give them the opportunity to do so. But if we spend a good part of the question period on points of order and questions of privilege, legitimate or otherwise, there will be very few questions asked.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has caught the Speaker's eye and his ear. He will be recognized in a moment but I am trying to proceed, as much as possible in the circumstances, in an orderly fashion. I think we had reached the point a few minutes ago when the Chair wanted to ascertain whether the hon. member for Compton had a supplementary question.

24107—15

Inquiries of the Ministry

[*Translation*]

INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING—MEASURES TO STABILIZE ECONOMY

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

As the consumer price index is rising in every sector in a disconcerting manner, would the right hon. Prime Minister tell this House whether the government intends to intervene directly to establish a policy aimed at lowering prices and the cost of living in order to balance the economy and ensure stability to the Canadian currency?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, to answer this question, it would be necessary for me to know more about the means proposed by the hon. member to lower prices. Does he suggest control over prices and salaries through statutory means, and does he think, along with his party, that the federal government has indeed the necessary jurisdiction to do so?

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I revealed a moment ago that the hon. member for Annapolis Valley had caught the Speaker's eye, so I shall recognize him now.

BUDGET TAX ADJUSTMENTS RECOMMENDED BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not want to accept necessarily the premise of the Prime Minister that he can talk economics if he cannot understand the subject, and so my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the deepening economic problems of the country, and especially how they are affecting our export trade, and in view of the floating dollar which aggravates this problem, can the minister tell us in a general way, without saying what specifics may be involved, if he has made any recommendations at all to the Minister of Finance as to what adjustments, in a tax way, may be in the budget that the Minister of Finance is supposed to deliver some time?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have reported to the Minister of Finance that notwithstanding our many difficulties exports were doing rather well.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pepin: For the first three months of the year the trade balance was favourable by \$682 million.

Mr. McGrath: And what was unemployment?

Mr. Pepin: —seasonally adjusted, and on a non-seasonal basis, \$682 million.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suspect that the minister has many statistics he would like to impart to the House. I do not think that now is the time. He will have to do