

Oral Questions

We will need him like we will need every Canadian in favour of keeping the system open as it is for all Canadians.

As I have said often, and as I answered the Member when he asked me on our first day back last September, the Act is going through the Cabinet process and will be tabled as soon as it is approved in all its various stages.

Mr. Blaikie: You have been saying that for two years.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, Canada's version of Neville Chamberlain. It is a question about Government policy in which there is another conflict. In the Government, the feet do not know which mouth they are in.

According to *Maclean's* magazine of today, there are serious differences in the Government how to deal with the economy. Is it correct that the Government has neglected a range of functions that will become critical in supporting the economy? Is it correct that the Departments are run so badly that Canada now lacks some of the basic government services needed to take advantage of the current recovery? Are those statements correct with respect to the Government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the statements are incorrect, including the one the Hon. Member made about Neville Chamberlain.

REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, if the statements that the Government has neglected this range of functions, and that Government Departments are run down so badly that they cannot take advantage of the current recovery are not correct, will he dismiss or ask for the resignation of his Minister of State for Economic Development who made those statements in a 35-page document that went to the Cabinet, and who has made similar statements of criticism of Government policy in other documents presented to royal commissions and elsewhere? Is he going to go, or is the Prime Minister going to go, or will they both go—that is the preferable course?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Neither will go, Madam Speaker.

TRUST COMPANIES

PROMISE TO INTRODUCE NEW LEGISLATION

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. He will realize that he, his predecessor, and every Minister of State for Finance since the Bank Act was passed in 1980, promised a new trust company act. Is it the view of the Minister that a new trust company act is not important and is not critical for recovery?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Government and my Department are reviewing the various pieces of legislation that should be brought before Parliament. I would suggest that we have more urgent pieces of legislation to bring before Parliament, such as the Income Tax amendments that I hope will be expeditiously considered by Parliament when they come before it.

As the Hon. Member knows, we also had other measures brought in on those various subjects during the last year or two. As far as trust company legislation is concerned, I do not intend to proceed with a piece of legislation on this subject in the next few months.

CRITICISM OF DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, do I understand that the Minister of Finance does not agree with his Cabinet colleague, the Minister of State for Economic Development, who stated in his famous paper that the Finance Department is stifling potential investment with its long delays in bringing the country's trust company, insurance, and pension fund legislation up to date?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Minister did not make such statements.

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THE ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Is the Minister aware of the fact that in the Province of Quebec half of the total number of construction workers are out of work, that in the City of Vancouver half of the number of construction workers are out of work, that in southern Saskatchewan 60 per cent of construction workers are out of work, and that in southern Ontario 60 per cent of construction workers are out of work? If the Minister is aware, will he sit down now and develop an inventory of public works that could be undertaken either by the federal Government, or by the federal and provincial Governments jointly, in order that those people might have not only a job but the hope of a job in the near future?