

which he will bring before the House, measures designed to stimulate capital investment, certainly for 1972, because if the forecast is correct the level will actually decline?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend will take a look at the recent budget I presented in December he will find that there is considerable stimulus there for capital investment by business.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact—

Mr. Benson: And the Economic Council agrees with that.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, since the Economic Council's survey shows a very pessimistic outlook for 1972, is the government taking any measures to provide adequate social capital for 1971 and 1972, particularly in view of the statement that investment, for instance, in university construction will actually decline in 1972 by 10 per cent below the present level?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, if one takes a look at my budgetary forecast which I brought forward in December, one will find that the government has provided a stimulus, on the budgetary side alone, to the tune of some \$600 million in 1971 and 1972 and over all, cashwise, to the tune of some \$2 billion.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will be allowed to ask his supplementary, but I am wondering whether we are not at this time entering on the budget debate. There are still two more days of that debate remaining and I assume it will be brought before the House again in a short while. Having said this, I gather that the hon. member has a supplementary question, as has the hon. member for Peace River, but for the moment the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands has the floor.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, since the Economic Council of Canada dealt only with the capital spending of business and universities but made no survey of capital expenditures in the fields of agriculture, fisheries or housing, has the government any forecasts of capital expenditures for 1971 and 1972 for those three areas? If the government has, would the minister be prepared to make them available to the House?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I wish to indicate that I think there is serious deficiency in the Economic Council's forecast in that such important areas have been left out. For example, housing has been very strong, and the minister in charge of housing will be speaking about this in a few days. It is expected to be very strong in the period under review.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Stanfield: The government had better change the record.

UNEMPLOYMENT—PROVISION OF MORE LABOUR-INTENSIVE PROJECTS UNDER REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION PROGRAM

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Minister of Regional Economic Expansion? Since the economic expansion program has failed to create enough jobs to provide for even the normal increase in the work force, would the minister review his program with the provincial governments now gathered here and see if it is not possible to provide more labour-intensive projects at this time?

Mr. Martin P. O'Connell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. member that in December last amendments were passed to the Regional Development Incentives Act which greatly enlarged the programs of the department and those programs have relation to the present situation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baldwin: That is not what the provinces say.

UNEMPLOYMENT—DISCUSSION AT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—TABLING OF AGENDA

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister? I believe that last week the Prime Minister indicated that when a decision had been made on the agenda for the present conference of heads of government the agenda would be tabled in the House. Is the Acting Prime Minister prepared to table that document? Could he also indicate when, according to the agenda, the item of unemployment will be discussed, how much time will be devoted to it, and whether it is a priority item at this conference?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not have the agenda for the conference. I understand, however, from consulting with my colleagues, that the item of unemployment will be discussed tomorrow morning.

UNEMPLOYMENT—REVISION OF MANPOWER RETRAINING REGULATIONS—DISCUSSION AT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. For some time now I have been trying to find out from the minister the number of people who have applied for training but have not qualified. In view of the difficulties encountered by people applying for training assistance, will the minister be discussing the problem of revising the regulations with the heads of government this week with a view to providing that