

Oral Questions

commence this fall. Once again we have this fall deadline. In light of the serious problem now being faced by our young people, why can the minister not have a much earlier starting date than the fall in order to relieve some of this pressure? He has the money, the jobs are required; why can he not move now in this regard?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have announced the details of other programs for student employment in this House. The \$100 million to which the hon. member refers is clearly earmarked for a local initiative type program in the fall similar to the one conducted in 1975-76.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, am I to understand now that there are no programs and no initiatives on the part of the government to assist our young people who are crying for jobs now and will be to an even greater extent this summer? Is that the position of the minister at this particular time?

Mr. Andras: No, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. member has been present when programs which are available for student summer employment have been detailed in this House. There are no additional funds available, but he is fully aware of those programs.

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ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM**GOVERNMENT ACTION IF PROGRAM DECLARED ULTRA VIRES
BY SUPREME COURT**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Today there is a great deal of speculation—

An hon. Member: It is for you, Pierre.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I know he is busy and I dislike disturbing him, but now that he is back from holidays I hope for an answer.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Do I understand from press statements made yesterday that the Supreme Court of Canada will render a judgment by the end of the month? In the event the judgment is to the effect that the parliament of Canada acted ultra vires, is it the intention of the government to bring in legislation prefaced, as I suggested on October 14 last, with a preamble by parliament declaring there is a state of national emergency? Will the Prime Minister have such legislation brought in, in order to ensure that the anti-inflation legislation will be upheld?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the event that the hypothetically pessimistic view of the right hon. gentleman is substantiated in fact, I would consider the suggestion.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, it was hypothetical in October last when I pointed out the need for the parlia-

[Mr. Alexander.]

ment of Canada to declare an emergency, which would have done away with most of the argument before the Supreme Court of Canada. I would ask whether the Prime Minister is still of the opinion that there was not a general emergency, and is that the reason he did not include that particular matter or declaration in the preamble?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the legislation speaks for itself, and the right hon. gentleman should know that is the way you interpret a statute.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister refers to us as being a bunch of hyenas. All I can say is that it is apparent we have got his goat. I would ask him this simple question, hypothetical as he stated it to be, although the press is already problematically determining what the majority judgment of the Supreme Court will be, will legislation be brought before this session which already has ambled on for 19 months?

● (1430)

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, the question, as I answered in the first place, is hypothetical in its form. I have no cause to know what the answer to that hypothetical question would be. I do not have the advantage perhaps the hon. gentleman has of having phoned a judge.

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[Translation]

ENERGY**INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER WILL INTERVENE IN CONFLICT
IN EASTERN CANADA OVER ELECTRICITY**

Mr. Bernard Loiselle (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Can he tell the House whether one or several provinces asked him to intervene directly in settling the hydro issue which is now developing in the eastern part of the country, and whether he will intervene through the federal authority with respect to the inter-provincial trade, and if so, within which schedule?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have received no formal request from either of the two parties, the province of Quebec or the province of Labrador-Newfoundland, to intervene in their dispute. However, I did have an opportunity to discuss with the ministers of those two provinces and the premiers of the three maritime provinces the concept of an Atlantic pool system. I think we made some important advances in looking at the power problems, particularly electrical power problems, of Atlantic Canada and in seeking an Atlantic solution for them.