

impact of the request formulated by the hon. member today, and I shall then be in a position to report to the House on the financial assistance to be provided and the accompanying conditions, so that Canadians who want to exercise their rights to equal access to French or English schools under the law can receive assistance from the Canadian government.

\* \* \*

[English]

### THE ECONOMY

#### PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PROJECTS—REQUEST FOR ACCELERATION

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has spoken considerably about co-operation. I am sure he would know that the downturn in the automobile industry, the construction industry and many other industries has now settled to the point where it has affected the basic steel industry very dramatically.

Would the Prime Minister consider asking the provinces and the municipalities, in addition to his own ministries, what projects they could expect to go ahead with but have delayed as a result of economic conditions, and then meet with them and others to try to find ways to accelerate the process in order to get those projects under way so that the steel industry will not have to get to the rock bottom stage that it anticipates it will get to during this coming winter?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, much was done by the Minister of Finance in regard to the Hon. Member's leader. I want to say that this is a very constructive suggestion indeed. I think that the Hon. Member will be pleasantly surprised when he will see that it is exactly the form of action that we are contemplating. The discussions to which he refers have already begun between the Minister of Finance and some of his counterparts and, of course, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, which I referred to earlier.

It is crucial to our thinking, as I believe it is to the Hon. Member's, that the federal funds be used wherever possible to lever or to assist municipalities or the private sector, public and private corporations and provincial governments, so that they will be prepared to take risks now investing money which will be needed to build an infrastructure which Canada will use very effectively when recovery does come.

In the meantime, the suggestion made by the Hon. Member for action is exactly one of the ways in which we intend to act.

**Mr. Deans:** I am sure that the Prime Minister will recall that I made the same suggestion about 18 months ago. Perhaps if it was acted on then we would not be in the mess we are in now.

### Oral Questions

#### SUGGESTED CONSTRUCTION OF SASKATCHEWAN WATER PIPELINE

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister is aware that in the city which I represent we will have unprecedented levels of unemployment, perhaps as high as during the Depression, maybe higher in fact than during the Depression.

Let me give the Prime Minister a specific example of something that might be done and get his assurance that it will be done. There is a demonstrated need for a water pipeline from Lake Diefenbaker to Regina and Moose Jaw. Ipsco has indicated that it is prepared to provide the steel at cost. Will the Prime Minister sit down with the Government of Saskatchewan and work out those ways necessary to take advantage, to provide that project now in order that in the steel industry at least they will be able to have some work during the winter? It is one idea on how we might be able to deal with the current economic problems.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to the fact, as he put it, that he mentioned this idea 18 months ago. I accept that. I would remind him that many of the actions of the Government in the previous year have been precisely an implementation of that kind of thinking.

Let me give him an example once again of the action of the Minister of Transport in the area of transportation, particularly in the west. The suggestion that has been worked at in very lengthy consultation between the Minister and his provincial counterparts and the private sector, as I recall it, is that the Minister was prepared to put forward something like \$3 billion in order to assist the railways to get on with some of these projects, which would have meant spending by the railways of perhaps some \$15 billion, meaning work not only in the west, not only better transportation, but work throughout Canada for all those industries which are related to the railways, including steel and so on. That is one example.

Another example is the announcement by the former Minister of Finance in the Budget of some \$400 million for housing. The Hon. Member shakes his head. I want him to understand that we are trying that idea precisely.

**Mr. Deans:** What about the water pipeline?

**Mr. Trudeau:** When we offer each new home buyer \$3,000, that is a matter of using federal money in order to permit the private sector, home owners and builders, to get on with projects which are much larger. In other words, the federal money is used in order to lever the private sector to do something beneficial for the individual and for Canada.

As far as the specific example mentioned by the Hon. Member is concerned, it has already been mentioned by the members of the Western Affairs Committee in the federal Government, and it is being discussed. If it is something that the Government of Saskatchewan sees as a priority, we will be very anxious to discuss it with that government.