

statistics prove that Canada is still in very bad shape. Therefore, I ask the Acting Prime Minister the true reasons for the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration has been in the House regularly to answer questions in connection with the economy and the unemployment situation. His absence today is in no way related to the release of the unemployment figures, but is as a result of commitments which he has undertaken in the province of Ontario.

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[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO AID IN GIVING EMPLOYMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I am sorry that the Acting Prime Minister seems to consider as normal the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration when we discuss these statistics. Since he is undoubtedly aware that young people account for 26 per cent of manpower and for 48 per cent of unemployed people in Canada, the Acting Prime Minister, just like the Prime Minister who told young Canadians a few months ago that if they wanted to work and did not find jobs in the country, they just had to leave—

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. La Salle: It's coming. Just like the minister responsible, last week—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member wishes to ask a question, would he put it forthwith?

Mr. La Salle: Following those two statements, here is my question to the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker: Has the Prime Minister any new development to announce to the House in order to correct this pitiful situation for this group of young people?

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we would be grateful if it were possible for the opposition to pass the tax bill which, when enacted, will provide a very positive stimulus to the economy of Canada. That would be a very helpful way of easing the economic situation in Canada.

● (1417)

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary. It is unfortunate that the answers are not more positive. Since the labour force increased by 83,000 new young workers in the last year and during the same period the number of jobs for

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young people only increased by 22,000, has the Acting Prime Minister a concrete proposal to make today in order to correct this imbalance and the threat of a climate which may deteriorate further for this group of young people?

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member might have noticed that there has been a slight improvement in the employment totals in his province of Quebec, which is worthy of some comment. The proposals of the government for the stimulus of the economy were put forward by the Minister of Finance in his economic statement during the throne speech debate, and it is not the intention of the government to make new policy on a daily basis in response to questions of this kind. When policy is formulated, it will be announced and made known to the House in the normal way.

An hon. Member: A lot of baloney.

UNEMPLOYMENT—SUGGESTION EMPLOYMENT MINISTER RESIGN IN VIEW OF REMARKS AT OTTAWA UNIVERSITY

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): I would like to point out to the President of the Privy Council first that the Minister of Finance was reported in the *Financial Times* last week as saying—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Crosbie: —that budget proposals are effective on the date the budget is brought in. So it has nothing to do with the budget proposals.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: There are 117,000 people out of work in the Atlantic provinces compared with 39,000 in 1968, three times as many. Are the comments made by the Minister of Employment and Immigration last Saturday night in connection with unemployment that we have been spoiled rotten, that Canadians have been living too high on the hog and that we need a kick in the guts, a reflection of the government's attitude towards this tragic situation in Canada, and if he is not representing the government's attitude—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Crosbie: —will he be prepared to resign?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Get up and answer that, Allan.

An hon. Member: And do something.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister): I want to assure the hon. member that the statements alleged to be those of the Minister of Employment and Immigration do not represent any considered policy on the part of the government, although I find much in his statements and comments with which I agree such as, for example, his statement that it is not