

*Oral Questions*

## QUERY RESPECTING PROGRAMS TO COMBAT INFLATION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, since the Prime Minister finally did join those in the country who have talked about job insecurity for Canadians for a long time by saying that he recognized that unemployment was a dangerous threat to the social fabric of the country, why should Canadians at this point in his political life believe that he is serious about this? Why should they have confidence that he is any more concerned than he was in the past? Does the government today have one new program to announce which will come to grips with the serious level of unemployment in this country?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I am interested that the Leader of the New Democratic Party should say that wealth in many other countries has increased as well while wealth in Canada has increased. He fails to recognize that unemployment in other countries has also increased. He fails to see that jobs in Canada during the period in which I have been in office have been created at a rate which far exceeds that of all other major countries. He fails to see that the government which I suppose he supports ideologically—the French government—has higher unemployment than Canada has. He fails to see that the United States has higher unemployment than Canada. He fails to see that Britain has higher unemployment than does Canada. Germany is very close to Canada.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Oh, watch it.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I am watching it, Madam Speaker. I wish that the hon. member would watch it.

## REQUEST THAT NEW BUDGET BE INTRODUCED

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, the figure that overcomes all those that the Prime Minister has alluded to with its impact is the reality that when he came to office we were the second richest nation per capita in the world. We are now down to about thirteenth or fourteenth. The Prime Minister cannot deny that.

Since the Prime Minister has responsibility for what happens in Canada and not in other countries, and since a report which was released today showed that the number of Canadians in the labour force who were unemployed in 1980 amounted to one in five who were out of a job sometime in 1980—and unemployment was lower then than it is today—such disturbing statistics provide the kind of evidence for the statement that I thought the Prime Minister was making seriously when he said that unemployment can threaten the social fabric. If the reality today is that unemployment is devastating in terms of its impact on families throughout Canada, why does the Prime Minister not say that he will bring in a new budget or some other specific measure designed to turn the economy around and provide some economic leadership to Canadians?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, when the hon. member pretends to rank countries by

wealth I suppose he realizes that he is classing, for instance, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria—

**Mr. Broadbent:** And the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

**Mr. Trudeau:**—and Kuwait. I understand, but would the hon. member wish to subtract from the list those countries which are infinitely poorer than Canada in every sense? But because of OPEC operations—

**Mr. Broadbent:** Well, we are ninth then.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, Madam Speaker, the Leader of the New Democratic Party does not want to listen to answers.

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● (1430)

## DISASTERS

## SINKING OF "OCEAN RANGER"—INVESTIGATION OF CAUSE

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the—

**An hon. Member:** Welcome back!

**Mr. Crosbie:** My question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The minister will have noticed that today the United States Coastguard and the National Transportation Safety Board are commencing hearings in Boston into the sinking of the *Ocean Ranger*, which sank on the Canadian continental shelf on February 15. He will also know that congressional hearings which have already been held have indicated that the whole tragedy had something to do with the breaking of a porthole in the control room, which affected the stability on the port side. He will also know that in Canada not one agency, not one parliamentary committee, not one royal commission nor any official body has done anything in connection with this matter to give information to the public.

When will the joint royal commission start hearings concerning this tragedy? It was appointed on February 25, two months ago. Do we have observers at Boston who are listening to the evidence that the Coastguard and American authorities are giving? Is it not shameful that we must get our information secondhand from hearings held in the United States, when the tragedy occurred here over two months ago?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I will try to answer the various points raised by my hon. colleague. The joint commission of inquiry has been set up. All the arrangements, administrative and otherwise, have been settled with the commission and with the government of Newfoundland.

The commission is in a position to proceed. It is proceeding, however, with caution and sensitivity, bearing in mind the importance of the issue and the fact that the commission has