

Oral Questions

Mr. Nielsen: Show it to us.

Mr. Clark: How can we pass what you will not produce? There is no bill!

Madam Speaker: Order.

Mr. Clark: This is one more step in closure.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member for Oshawa.

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FINANCE

MEETING OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FINANCE MINISTERS—
PRESENTATION OF JOB CREATION MEASURES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. We learned from the meeting which took place yesterday that all provinces have decided to co-operate with the federal Government in job creation programs. For that, all Canadians can be thankful.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: However, with 1.5 million unemployed I am a little concerned about the timing and would like the Minister to clarify that.

One report said that there would not be another meeting until about a month from now. If that is the case, and considering that it will require a number of weeks after that meeting to create new jobs, it could mean that we will be well into the Spring before any new job creation measures have any effect. Therefore, will the Minister indicate a little more precisely to Members of the House of Commons and, more important, to the people of Canada, when we can expect some new job creation measures?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, before talking about implementing new job creation measures I think it would be quite helpful if the Opposition, instead of dragging their feet, would support the adoption of the Income Tax Bill, for instance, which will provide for creation of new jobs by the private sector. It would remove the uncertainty still surrounding those measures as long as they are not passed by Parliament.

Secondly, we have announced job creation measures, specifically one involving \$500 million of additional expenditures by the federal Government, which has now been supplemented by about \$200 million of provincial expenditure. We now have around \$700 million of expenditures committed to that particular program. That program is being put into effect at the present time. It will have its impact in the months of January, February, and March. So there are things taking place.

I invite my hon. friend to look at what is happening at the present time. Let us support the programs being implemented,

and support the legislation before Parliament which will help remove uncertainty and ensure that recovery will take place speedily in the country. We are working on additional programs and projects, and as soon as they are ready to be proceeded with they will be announced, put in place, and implemented. But in the meantime let us get going what is already before Parliament, let us implement the programs for which money has already been voted.

DATE OF BUDGET PRESENTATION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I hope the Minister will agree that this is an extremely serious situation. There are news reports, probably on the front page of every newspaper in Canada today, which try to suggest, to the unemployed particularly, that there are reasons to believe that there is going to be early action. What I heard from the Minister—if I heard him precisely, and I think I did—was that he is not prepared to tell us that we are going to get any new action at all. He is saying that the people of Canada have to rely on the measures announced by the Government many weeks ago. I say to the Minister that that is not good enough.

● (1130)

In the press today, with reference to the need for additional funds, the Minister is reported by the press today as saying, "The question is whether we can allocate more funds, and this is the question I will address for my next budget." If he is not prepared to spend more money until the next budget, will he at least tell us when we are going to get that budget?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have indicated that there will be a new budget early in the new year. I have indicated that for sure this budget will be brought in before the beginning of the next fiscal year. In due time I will be able to announce exactly when the next budget will be presented.

As far as the premise of the question of the Hon. Member is concerned, my purpose is not to try to satisfy him. I could come up with a budget tomorrow morning, and the day after he would come to me and say that we need a new budget with new measures. That has been the game of the NDP ever since it has been in this House. It will continue to be that way as far into the future as we can see. I could agree with everything he said, and he would come back the next day and say it was not good enough.

We are trying to do everything we can, and we will do it in co-operation with the Provinces. It is too bad if the NDP is not happy. It will just have to keep on being unhappy. That has been the history of that Party ever since it came into existence.

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, we can see that the Minister has finally lost his smile. We have hit a sensitive chord. He is trying to do a snow job on the people of Canada.