

*Oral Questions***UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance with regard to his budget. His budget last night acknowledged that there will be a loss of some 60,000 jobs in the Canadian economy this year, that unemployment will remain at 12.4 per cent and all the efforts of the Government with regard to job creation can only affect this by about one-half of a percentage point.

Many of the unemployed today are the heads of households who have children. They must pay for mortgages and grocery bills. Having robbed these people of the dignity of work, will he now seriously consider extending unemployment insurance benefits in order not to force upon them the indignity of having to go on welfare?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I think the best way to restore dignity to those people whom the Member says have lost their dignity is not by extending benefits but by doing everything possible to provide them with work in jobs that they want and need. I think this is what the budget is trying to do.

Mr. Keeper: The Minister clearly indicated in his budget last night that he could not create jobs for Canadians.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER LISTEN TO UNEMPLOYED

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Madam Speaker, the Minister must be aware that unemployed Canadians all across the country are organizing. In Winnipeg on Monday night they formed a union of the unemployed. They are angry, frustrated, and fed up with the economic policies of the Government. One of the steps that they have called for is the extension of unemployment insurance benefits. Will the Minister, having listened to business, now listen to the unemployed?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, as I indicated yesterday, the central concern of the budget is indeed about the unemployed. All the steps we have taken in the budget are meant to come to the rescue of the unemployed by creating the environment in which the unemployed of the country will again have good, stable, well paid and satisfying jobs. That is what we want to do.

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THE BUDGET

FIGURES GIVEN IN TABLED DOCUMENTS

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who, in answer to a question put by my colleague from Vancouver Centre, stated in terms of his changing arithmetic in the budget that he had filed the necessary corrections and documents with the table last night. Is the Minister of Finance aware that the arithmetic in those documents does not conform to what he said in his

budget speech? For example, on page 16 of the Fiscal Plan, it shows a special recovery capital increase for the year 1984-85 of \$40 million, but in his speech he said it was \$50 million. One page 41 of the Fiscal Plan we find that for the fiscal years 1984, 1985, and 1986, the deficits do not add up to the same figures, if you subtract revenues from expenditures. If he is aware of these corrections, how does he explain the discrepancies between his budget and what he filed last night?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, if there is a particular mistake in a particular document that had been filed last night I will be very happy to correct it. I hope that my hon. friend will provide me with a photocopy of that document. I will be happy to make that correction.

Again, what is important is what I said in the House, and the figures I used in the House in my speech.

EXPENDITURE FIGURES

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, when the Minister is looking for the many, many discrepancies, would he note on page 41 of the Fiscal Plan the expenditure figures in the aggregate are \$200 million higher than on page 45 of the same Fiscal Plan? In the Budget Financial Requirements there is the figure of \$26.7 billion for the year 1983-84, yet on page 46 of the Fiscal Plan they are shown at a mere \$26.6 billion. If the Minister knew what he was doing, why were there so many errors last night?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member shows that he is indeed an excellent bookkeeper and must have been an excellent banker. Again, if there are particular errors in the document I would be very happy to ensure that corrections will be made. I will check with my officials and file the necessary corrections if corrections are required.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

TAX REVIEW BOARD

TABLING OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1982

Mr. Al MacBain (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Justice, I have the honour of tabling in both official languages the Twelfth Annual Report of the Tax Review Board for 1982. I ask that the Report be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.