

INCREASED BUDGET FOR HOUSING AS MEANS OF STIMULATING  
EMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, if the minister sees the entire country as one region, he is right in saying that we are concerned only about regional unemployment. If the minister will not consider a tax cut as one method of dealing with unemployment, will he contemplate the kinds of changes proposed earlier, namely, stimulating the housing budget at the national level? This would affect municipalities across the country, create jobs and meet housing needs.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to take that as a suggestion. I have noted in the recent report that the rate of housing completions in Canada has been, I think I am right in saying, almost at an historic high. Obviously, the government will want to give close attention in the months to come to the hon. member's proposal, along with others.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

BASIS UPON WHICH ANTICIPATED SAVINGS CALCULATED

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my last supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration? Will he confirm that the \$110 million saving which he anticipates next year from changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act is based on something printed in one of his own department's documents, namely, the assumption that unemployment next year will remain at between 7 per cent and 8 per cent?

**Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, one would have to be beaten with a stick to remember all the statistics thrown at one by the hon. member, and particularly by my department. I shall certainly look at the hon. member's question. The figures of saving are based on a series of figures to do with unemployment at particular levels.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION

REQUEST THAT SERVICES OF DEPARTMENT STAFF BE MADE  
AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

**Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Can he tell the House whether we members of parliament can still rely on adequate service from civil servants of his department to help people who appeal to us?

[English]

**Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, we have one of the greatest departments there is. It is made up of a dedicated group of men and women

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who give service to the public. If the hon. member has a particular case in mind and wants to bring it to my attention, I can assure him it will be investigated.

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary.

Can the minister explain to the House why my riding and particularly my office are not provided with the necessary services to help constituents who pay dearly through taxes? Furthermore, how come the requests by my constituents, which are transferred to the Montreal regional office, remain unanswered for such a long time? If the minister thinks it is because of a lack of personnel, can he undertake to remedy immediately the situation to provide justice to Canadian citizens and those from northwest Quebec?

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, I shall look into the situation described by the hon. member.

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[English]

INDUSTRY

MEASURES TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY IN MANUFACTURING  
SECTOR—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF STUDY ON PRODUCTIVITY

**Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but in his absence I will direct it to the acting minister. Noting that Canada will have another disastrous trade deficit this year, the fourth consecutive trade deficit which this government has posted; noting that it has been the policy of this government to promote and finance turnkey operations off shore; and noting that in almost every instance those facilities are far superior to any we have in Canada and that we end up importing such production or competing with it in the international market place, I ask, what immediate steps is the government planning for increasing productivity in our manufacturing sector?

**Hon. Len Marchand (Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the hon. member's question as notice but want to assure him that the Canadian government is most interested in increasing its activities all over the world; these include various aspects of trade, turnkey operations and joint ventures. We are interested in increasing these activities.

**Mr. Kempling:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce a supplementary question? Noting recent unemployment figures, I ask, do you plan to table the study on productivity produced by your department for the DM-10 group? If so, when will we see it and will you refer it to a committee of this House for discussion?

**Mr. Marchand:** Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice and advise the hon. member.

**An hon. Member:** Are you the minister?