

## Oral Questions

**Mr. MacEachen:** That was the intention. If the hon. member is asking me not to concern myself with the most needy cases and to restructure the bond in such a way that those who need the money less will get it more quickly, then it is a suggestion I would have to think about very deeply. I would urge the hon. member not to dismiss changes made in the budget to the bond as quickly as he has done. For instance, the change to apply the bond to unincorporated businesses and farmers was made as a result of representations from both sides of the House. Yesterday I was able to tell the Canadian Federation of Agriculture that \$100 million has gone into the farming sector as a result of that specific change to the business bond. I think that is rather significant.

• (1425)

STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS—  
REQUEST FOR ACTION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. A short while ago ten Quebec backbench Liberals, and then the Solicitor General, complained bitterly about the government's economic policy. The Solicitor General put it somewhat euphemistically when he said that the budget was "a disaster".

Today *La Presse* revealed that another group of Liberals, this time 15, are very critical of the government's economic policy. In a leaked document, a copy of which I have here, these Liberals say that the economic situation is "very serious" and that the government must demonstrate that it has "the will and determination to govern". Since these Liberal members have finally joined the rest of the people of Canada in acknowledging the disastrous economic performance of the government, when can the people of Canada finally expect some action from the Government of Canada?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is referring to a leaked document, as he said, which presumably appeared in the newspapers. I do not know what that document is, but I do not have any reason to believe that it was signed by members of this caucus. It was considerations that were being presented to them on the economy, but in a general sense, if the hon. member is quoting members on this side as believing that the economic situation is very serious in Canada and calls for remedial action, of course he is stating what the government has been saying all along.

**Mr. Broadbent:** No, Madam Speaker, they point out what we have been saying on this side of the House for months, that the government lacks the will to act, and needs to acquire that will. I would be happy to send this over to the Prime Minister. It has 15 Liberal names attached, including a minister of the Crown.

## ROLE OF BUREAUCRATS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I should like to quote to the Prime Minister one of the judgments they make. They say that the "structure of government

departments frustrates effective action by ministers and prevents an imaginative, action-oriented approach". Given this very serious indictment of cabinet, does the Prime Minister agree that it is the bureaucrats who now have control of policy, not the elected members of cabinet? Has cabinet lost control?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Once again, Madam Speaker, I am speaking without having had the benefit, as has the hon. member, of reading that document. But it is a common thing in this caucus, at any rate, that we are very frank and open in caucus—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:**—and within ourselves we are constantly trying to improve the mechanics of government and the machinery of government.

**An hon. Member:** By advertising!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Conservative members should not be jealous, Madam Speaker, because one question out of three goes to the NDP. They should let me answer the question, and they can bellow when their own leader is asking a question.

**Mr. Shields:** Don't be so testy.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I am not testy; I just think you are ridiculous, that is all.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I would urge members to answer the questions rather than the hecklers.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister should be aware that the people of the country are not particularly interested in whether he thinks people are ridiculous or whether he is testy; they would like a Prime Minister who is really interested in governing Canada. I think that is what they would like.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## WESTERN CANADIAN ISSUES

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, there is a final judgment on which I should like to ask the Prime Minister to express his opinion, testy or otherwise, today. In the document they say—and it is a particular concern to an important part of the country—that "western issues and concerns" are "still not properly reflected in the decision-making process" of the government. What a condemnation! I should like to ask the Prime Minister, more than two years after the 1980 election, whether he agrees with this document signed by 15 Liberal backbenchers, including one minister of the Crown, which states that the government has ignored western issues?