

Oral Questions

Is this the price that the Government is willing to pay, risking life and limb of the people of Canadair in such a great public extravaganza, in order to promote their political aims and nothing more?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I will concede, and I will even brag about the fact, that the Government intends that the spending of the taxpayers' money raised by Parliament, will be known to the taxpayers of Canada. I know the Party on the other side is not interested in that approach. They do not believe in a strong federal presence. I have never heard them criticize the millions spent on advertising by Premier Davis in Ontario, or by Premier Lévesque. That is because they do not believe in a strong Canada; they believe in strong Provinces. That is the difference between the two Parties.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS**UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Labour force statistics are out today and they document the fact that 309,000 fewer Canadians are working today than were working one month ago. Rather than the Minister simply calling upon the Opposition to salute him because of a statistical drop in the rate of unemployment, I wonder whether he is prepared to do something real for the 309,000 Canadians who are not working and who were working a month ago.

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member knows that the appropriate assessment is to look at what is happening to employment figures in a seasonally adjusted way. For some reason the Hon. Member wants to put the worst possible interpretation that he can on the figures, and to welcome with gloom and doom every sign he can find, even when he distorts them, to justify taking that position. The fact is that for every month since last November there has been an improvement in the employment situation, and that is shown in the figures. I would have thought that the hon. gentleman would have been happy about that rather than seeming to take some enjoyment in the fact that he can find some reason for sadness.

● (1125)

UNEMPLOYMENT IN GASPÉ REGION OF QUEBEC

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Madam Speaker, the statistics clearly show there are 309,000 fewer Canadians working today than one month ago. The Minister has been in his portfolio long enough to know that.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the same Minister. The Minister is aware that the regions in Canada are suffering from very high unemployment rates, and especially

the area around Gaspé and the town of Grande-Vallée. Is the Hon. Minister prepared to intervene in Gaspé to help the people in these communities or is he just going to blame the Quebec Government for the situation?

[English]

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, the hon. gentleman knows very well he is partaking in an intellectual fraud. He knows very well that employment statistics vary in this country seasonally, particularly between August and September. He knows that very well. The fact of the matter is that the base line of employment since last November has improved tremendously. It is the seasonally adjusted figures which show the .5 per cent drop which are the important figures. He knows that. I would either have to be disrespectful to his intelligence or to his sincerity. I prefer, in this particular case, not to be very flattering about his sincerity.

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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION ON CANADIAN CONTENT**

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, let us deal with some facts. The Government has before it the report of the automobile industry task force which recommended, among other important things, that the Government immediately undertake negotiations for Canadian content in foreign imported cars. It suggested we could create 80,000 jobs in Canada, with a Canadian content requirement. We will lose 40,000 jobs if we do not act. Why does the Government not move now to negotiate a Canadian content requirement for imported automobiles in order to ensure employment not only for automobile workers, but for other workers in the steel, glass, and rubber industries?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has this report. He has been discussing it with various people. It is under examination and review. When the Government is ready to make an announcement in that regard, I am sure the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will be very happy to provide his answer.

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MEDICAL CARE**PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS IN YUKON**

Mr. Herb Breau (Gloucester): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the confusion created by the Hon. Member for Provencher with regard to premiums for health care in the Yukon, would the Minister enlighten the House by telling us in fact whether or not there are hospital premiums levied in the Yukon? Obviously the Hon. Member for Provencher not