

Inquiries of the Ministry

Since Mr. Bourassa has made it known that the purpose of his trip is to obtain investments for Quebec, an expanding province, did the premier of Quebec—or his government—make an official application to the federal government or to the Canadian International Development Agency to obtain interest-free loans for the development of the province?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member want to put a supplementary question?

Mr. Fortin: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

In the light of the very eloquent answer which was given to my first question, I should like to put the following supplementary question: Has the federal government in mind the setting up of an agency which would play the role of the Canadian Development Agency with the various provincial governments in need of money to speed up their economic development?

Mr. Rondeau: Tax development.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have so many programs which do what the hon. member wants that I do not know why he would like to have an additional one. We have the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, we have equalization payments and we have also a series of programs under which the federal government pays to developing provinces huge amounts which will nearly reach one billion this year. These are not interest-free loans but grants taken from the other provinces' taxes. So I am at a loss as to what the hon. member wants to know.

Mr. Fortin: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

I would like the right hon. Prime Minister to tell us if he has officially received from the Quebec government a request similar to the one made by the latter to some European countries, asking them for investments in Quebec?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the federal government does not invest in Quebec in the same way as private European undertakings. The premier of Quebec did not make such a request, which by the way I would find inconceivable.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has already asked two supplementary questions regarding that matter. I will recognize the hon. member later.

[English]

For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster.

[Mr. Fortin.]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In connection with the preparation of the forthcoming budget, is the minister receiving the active advice of the hon. member for Trinity either through that great, democratic body, the Liberal caucus, or on a personal basis?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether the question as asked is in order.

Mr. Bell: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It would have to be a new question because the hon. member cannot ask a supplementary to a question that is clearly out of order.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, may I direct an entirely new question to the Prime Minister in connection with this matter. In view of the Prime Minister's willingness to forget the past, would he take back the lonely hon. member for Trinity into the cabinet or at least make him a minister of state, because—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is in the form of a suggestion. Again he must assume that it will be considered.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

PURPOSE OF ASSIGNMENT OF INVESTIGATOR TO SYDNEY OFFICE

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In asking this question I appeal to his well known sense of justice and fair play. Is the minister aware that an investigator has arrived at the Sydney unemployment insurance office from the regional office at Moncton? Also, after due investigation on his part would he advise whether this man's job is to ascertain who leaked the information that plans were under way to phase out or close down the commission's office in Sydney?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have serious doubts whether the hon. member's question is in order. He will recognize that this is a matter of very specialized importance. I wonder whether the hon. member does not think that this is the type of question which could well be considered at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, may I rephrase my question. May I ask the minister—I realize that he is responsible for the Unemployment Insurance Commission and am aware of his interest in matters of this nature, if he would check with the officials of the Unemployment Insurance office and ascertain if such is the case and that there are Gestapo tactics in the Unemployment Insurance Commission?