

Oral Questions

ter if the amendments to the National Housing Act and plans for housing changes will be implemented and brought before the House after the conference in question, with a further delay?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful of introducing the amendments to the National Housing Act before the conference, but they will, of course, be discussed in parliament and at the federal-provincial conference. There have already been two rounds of consultations with the provinces with reference to this matter, but the program envisaged in those amendments cannot be got under way until the legislation is passed.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are obviously a number of supplementaries. I will return to the hon. members in a moment. If the hon. member for Calgary North will ask his supplementary, in fairness I will then recognize the hon. member for Champlain.

Mr. Woolliams: Do I take it that this conference is basically superfluous in view of the fact that all changes are to be brought before the House before the conference commences?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is debate. The hon. member for Champlain.

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[*Translation*]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REQUEST THAT MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN
PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

In view of the particular circumstances resulting from the last federal election, has the Prime Minister explored the possibility of asking each of the political parties represented in the House to participate in the drafting of the different pieces of legislation he wishes to bring down during this session?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): It would seem such a measure would be hard to implement, Mr. Speaker. The co-operation to which the hon. member alludes should normally take place at the time the bills are discussed, I think. I already indicated in the speech that we would welcome amendments which, in our opinion, would strengthen the fabric of the bills. However much we desire this co-operation I fail to see where a decision on a bill itself, normally taken at the cabinet level, could be shared with the different parties, unless of course, members of those parties accepted to be part of the cabinet.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT IN QUEBEC—SUGGESTION THAT
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE BE HELD

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

In the light of alarming statistics indicating that the unemployment rate in Quebec is almost twice as high as in the west, is the right hon. Prime Minister considering calling a conference on economic problems and possibilities in Quebec?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I think that if the Quebec Conservative leader looked at the figures he would see that the unemployment rate has decreased in Quebec since last month as compared with the rest of the country.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Would the Prime Minister kindly reply to my question and tell this House whether he intends to convene a conference on the economic problems of Quebec?

Mr. Trudeau: If the hon. member wants me to reply to his questions, he should not preface them as he does.

Mr. Wagner: The Prime Minister might wish to reply to my question.

[*English*]

UNEMPLOYMENT IN PRAIRIE PROVINCES—SUGGESTED
MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL FINANCE MINISTERS TO
DISCUSS CREATION OF JOBS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that unemployment increased last month in the prairie provinces and in view of the expressed concern of this government, will the minister undertake to meet immediately with his provincial counterparts, the Ministers of Finance of the prairie provinces, to discuss job creation in that region?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am meeting with the Ministers of Finance of the prairie provinces next week, on January 18 and 19, as well as the ministers from the other provinces and that subject will undoubtedly be on the agenda.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—INQUIRY AS
TO MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS OF FINANCE

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, and the latter part of his previous answer may have covered part of the question. In view of the tragic unemployment figures in Atlantic Canada, is the minister recommending to his colleagues that they consult or does he intend to consult with the Ministers of Finance in Atlantic Canada in order to discuss the tragic unemployment situation in that region?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic ministers will be at the meeting next week.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—POSITION
OF GOVERNMENT ON 1971 REPORT OF ATLANTIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Regional Economic