

who initiated all these devastating programs are hypocritically offering to change their programs if elected Leader of that bankrupt Party.

The people of Canada are not naive. The only hope for this nation is to kick out the Liberals and elect a PC Government headed by the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney). It will have a fresh approach, the free enterprise approach, and a determination to build trust and faith in this country. It will be willing to sit down and talk with the provincial Governments, and will be determined to reflect the thinking of the greatest possible number of our people. It will cease having government compete with industry. A PC Government can hold this nation together and satisfy all regions with fairness, understanding, and compassion for all peoples, including the minorities.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before recognizing the Hon. Member for Restigouche (Mr. Harquail), the Chair would call to his attention the rules of the House which preclude using Standing Order 21 to recognize visitors in the Gallery.

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AIR SAFETY

SMOKING RESTRICTIONS URGED FOR AIRCREWS

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion lately about tourist and commercial travel. I want to focus the attention of the House of Commons on a very important issue, that of air safety. Last year we had that disaster in Cincinnati where 23 people lost their lives. Then, more recently, we saw where an Air Canada pilot caused a fire in the cockpit of an aircraft, resulting in a forced landing. Most recently a PWA aircraft was totally destroyed by fire in Calgary.

To follow up on my interventions in committee with respect to representations being made to the president of Air Canada and to the air travel industry in general concerning the health effects of breathing noxious cigarette fumes, as well as the air safety aspect, I would ask if the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) would consider restrictions on airline employees smoking in aircraft in order better to protect the travelling public who are at risk because of the carrying, on aircraft, of inflammable materials. I ask the support of this House in encouraging the Minister to take action in this regard.

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SPORTS

NATIONAL MIXED CURLING PLAYOFFS—CONGRATULATIONS TO SASKATCHEWAN RINK

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, last week the beautiful city of Prince Albert hosted the National Mixed Curling Playoffs. The winning Province was, of course, Saskatchewan. I passed on your congratulations to the winning team as well as to the other teams, and I now express my

Oral Questions

condolences to the Members from the rest of Canada whose Provinces did not quite make it.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

COMPARISON WITH SITUATION IN UNITED STATES

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. He will realize that, despite the fact interest rates went up last week, the dollar continues to go down and is now struggling to stay above 78 cents. However, my question has to do with misrepresentations he made in the House last Friday.

The Minister said on Friday that the cycles of recession and recovery are not identical in Canada to the United States. We should expect there to be lags in either direction, but fundamentally the same general direction applies. How can he say that when in the U.S. today the unemployment rate is 7.8 per cent, down 1.7 per cent since last August, while in Canada at the same time the unemployment rate is 11.3 per cent, having dropped only .3 per cent since last August? It would take the creation of 400,000 jobs here in Canada just to move our unemployment rate back to the same level as it is in the U.S. How can the Minister say we are moving in the same direction when we are going in the opposite and worst direction?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I invite my friend to look at the figures and he will realize that both here and in the U.S. there has been strong job creation in the last year. As I indicated, since the end of the recession we have created over 450,000 jobs in this country, 54,000 of them last month. Both in Canada and in the U.S. there has been a strong upward movement in job creation.

My friend has pointed out that unemployment in the U.S. has gone down faster than in Canada. This is quite true, and I have said so in this House many times. The main difference is that the rate of increase in the participation rate, or the number of people joining the labour force, is significantly larger in Canada than in the U.S. For instance, last year the relative rate of increase in Canada was 40 per cent higher than in the U.S. As we get more and more people joining the labour force in Canada, in numbers larger proportionately than in the U.S., it is harder to bring the unemployment rate down. But the fact is that the U.S. and Canadian economies grew strongly last year and we expect them to grow strongly this year, and we also expect employment in both countries to grow strongly, and unemployment to come down in Canada also.