

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT—SPECIAL MEASURES TO ASSIST QUEBEC
TO PROVIDE NEW JOBS

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Lotbinière on a supplementary?

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

In view of the fact that in the province of Quebec in particular 42 per cent of the unemployed are under 25 years of age and that the main objective of the provincial government is to create 100,000 jobs, I wish to ask the Minister of Finance whether serious and specific discussions are presently underway between the federal government and the government of Quebec with a view to finding a quick and specific solution to the serious problem now facing this province by making sure that these 100,000 jobs are actually created?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think I indicated in my budget speech that many of the measures would be of great assistance to Quebec and, as a matter of fact, of the loan fund of \$150 million I mentioned a few moments ago about \$68 million will go to the province of Quebec. That province has indicated it is ready to let tenders now and proceed with providing jobs out of this amount of money.

UNEMPLOYMENT—INCOME AND BUSINESS TAX
REDUCTIONS, PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVES

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the very serious unemployment situation and the forecast that it will grow worse before it becomes better, is the government giving consideration to reducing income taxes and business taxes, as well as granting tax incentives to increase productivity?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we have of course considered these particular matters. I do not think that reducing the income tax would provide an immediate reduction in unemployment in Canada, as is advocated by the leader of the Opposition who is travelling across the country. As a matter of fact, the reduction in income tax he has suggested would cost over a billion dollars.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, my understanding of rule 15 (3) is that ministers need not reply but when they do their replies should be responsive, intelligent and relevant.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Benson: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I regret the hon. member's suggestions that what the Leader of the Opposition says across the country is irrelevant.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the minister that is not a question of privilege. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings is also seeking the floor on a question of privilege. I have a suspicion that perhaps it, too, is not a question of privilege. Perhaps I am wrong and should first hear the hon. member. I feel we are dealing with a very important matter, and a number of members are seeking an opportunity to ask supplementaries, but I will first hear the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings on a question of privilege.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the snide remarks made by the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member initiates his remarks by saying that he is replying to the minister's statement. As I have already indicated to the House, there was no question of privilege in the matter raised by the Minister of Finance and therefore it should not be pursued.

UNEMPLOYMENT—PROVISION OF JOBS FOR UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES AND STUDENTS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that soon there will be graduates and some 100,000 undergraduates of universities who will have no opportunity for employment this summer, outside of being sent around the country in buses, has the government any program for them at this time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will allow the minister to reply briefly, but I doubt whether the House would want the minister to give a general reply to the question at this time.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the question seems to involve some confusion between long-term programs for employment and programs for summer employment for students who have not yet completed their courses. The indications, of course, are that the economy will be improving in 1971 and hopefully many graduates will find jobs as they enter the labour force. On the question of summer employment, I think this question was asked yesterday and I indicated that possibilities are being considered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Calgary North seeks the floor for a supplementary question, but there are seven or eight other hon. members who should be allowed to ask their questions before we get into the second round. I think at this point the Chair should recognize the hon. member for St. John's East.

UNEMPLOYMENT—ACCELERATION OF SPECIAL AREA
ECONOMIC EXPANSION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE
JOBS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the critically high unemployment in certain areas of the country, would he consider accelerating the special area provisions in his