

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

resource personnel? Is the right hon. gentleman prepared to adopt that kind of openness in the formation of economic policy in this country?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Certainly if committees of the House want to study in more detail the report of the Economic Council of Canada the government sees absolutely no objection. There is no lack of openness in the possibilities offered to the opposition parties and the people of Canada generally to state their views on the economy and what should be done. I have noticed no lack of interest in the opposition ranks in stating their views on the economy. Therefore this is all open. I am not clear, once again, what the Leader of the Opposition desires in terms of the eventual decisions which have to be taken on budgetary measures. Does he suggest these should be discussed in the open?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Obviously at this point we are engaging in a debate. The Chair will allow the Leader of the Opposition to ask a supplementary question in a moment, but we are getting involved in debate when the right hon. Prime Minister suggests that a supplementary question might be asked and the Leader of the Opposition asks a supplementary. This is more in the form of a conversation and exchange of views between the hon. gentlemen. I would not think that is in keeping with the spirit of the question period.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I agree, Mr. Speaker, but I am simply trying to carry out my usual policy of co-operating with the right hon. gentleman at every opportunity. I would simply commend to him the reading of these recommendations by the Senate committee.

• (11:15 a.m.)

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE RESPECTING  
UNEMPLOYMENT AND NEED FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE  
ECONOMIC POLICY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Was the Minister of Justice stating government policy in his address yesterday to the Empire Club of Toronto when he said that Canada's rate of unemployment is totally unacceptable and that the situation calls for a more comprehensive government economic policy?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this is hardly a question of policy; it is a statement of fact. It is a fact that we have recognized in government ranks that we would like to see the unemployment rate lowered. If it is a policy, it is certainly a multilateral policy which we all share.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** What steps is the government taking to implement the policy called for by the minister, a more comprehensive approach to the whole problem of economic growth?

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is what the Minister of Justice and the other ministers have been engaged in in the past few years, trying to reach a more comprehensive approach.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

INVOLVEMENT OF PROVINCES AND INDUSTRY IN  
FORMULATION OF POLICY TO ACHIEVE GREATER  
INDEPENDENCE

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary on a matter closer to home and more recent. Was the Minister of Justice stating government policy when he said that an economic policy to give us more independence and international muscle must involve closer federal-provincial liaison and a closer relationship between government and industry? Is this now becoming government policy and when will the government in fact be moving toward this new type of policy?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad this excellent speech has attracted so much commendation from the opposition ranks and that they now have begun to realize the direction in which the government is moving.

FULL EMPLOYMENT GOAL

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question on unemployment for the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister say whether or not the government endorses and will adopt the recommendation of the Special Senate Committee on Poverty that Canada must have a goal of full employment?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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PENSIONS

OLD AGE SECURITY—FULL COST OF LIVING INCREASE  
ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. As recommended by the Senate committee report, is the government considering putting a full adjustment mechanism in old age security pensions as the cost of living rises and, if so, when will legislative action be taken?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** When the Senate forms the government, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

SUGGESTED REVISION OF POLICIES AND INTRODUCTION  
OF NEW PROGRAMS

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to put my question to the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion but, since he is away, I will put it to the right hon. Prime Minister. Following an accusation made yesterday by Quebec Premier Bourassa against the federal government to the effect that it did not meet its electoral promises of three years ago in order to eliminate regional disparities and faced with this obvious failure noted by the premiers of Quebec and of the other prov-