

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member is aware of illegal activities in other postal operations—

Mr. Boudria: I am asking you.

Mr. Andre: —if he will bring them to my attention or that of the Post Office, an investigation will be undertaken.

Mr. Boudria: I should have asked the question slower.

Mr. Andre: In response to information provided, an investigation was undertaken and charges laid.

The Hon. Member has asked whether the Post Office is engaged in a witch-hunt across the country. I am not aware of that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If the House agrees we will have one question from the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor and one question from the Hon. Member for Oxford.

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• (1200)

EMPLOYMENT

DECREASE IN JOB CREATION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. The unemployment figures released today show a major increase from March of this year, plus a major increase from April of last year.

The Government said that jobs would increase under the Free Trade Deal and now, for the first time in three years, jobs have decreased by 54,000.

I ask the Government and the Minister: Do they not recognize that high taxes and high interest rates are pushing this country into a major recession which will hurt thousands of people?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, maybe the Hon. Member could let me know from where he is getting these figures. In April, 1988, the level of employment was 12,188,000.

Mr. Allmand: What was the rate?

Mr. Wilson: It was about the same as it is today.

In April, 1989, the level of employment was 12,384,000. That adds up to, I believe, 196,000 more people working today than was the case 12 months ago.

Points of Order

Surely the Hon. Member can understand that tremendous progress.

TRADE

BROILER HATCHING EGGS AND CHICKS

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade. For some months now farmers in my riding and across the country who raise broiler hatching eggs and chicks have been asking to have their product placed on the import control list. Can the Minister tell us if and when he may be able to recognize their request?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have received the only reasonable question this morning.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: The situation is that broiler hatching eggs and chicks will be placed on the import control list effective May 8, next Monday.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: There are already import controls existing on chicken, turkey, eggs and related products to support marketing plans established under the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act. We believe the measure to be consistent with our rights and obligations under the GATT. We are operating under Article XI of the GATT.

We have taken steps to inform our trading partners of the changes to the import control list. We will give the domestic industry administrative details of the new controls, including the level of import quotas within the next few days.

I thank the hon. gentleman for his question which shows his interest in this subject.

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POINTS OF ORDER

CHANGE IN FIGURE QUOTED DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to make a revision to a figure I used in remarks I made earlier today. A figure of 120 was used. The figure ought to have read 20.

COMMENTS MADE DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, during the Question Period certain statistics were