

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Stanfield:** Is the Minister of Finance now prepared to concede that there has been in recent months, and particularly during the past month, an upward trend in the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment, and despite the confusion he has expressed this afternoon what does he propose to do about this?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** All the evidence indicates—and I think members of parliament from all sides of the House returning from their constituencies will bear this out—that the economy is currently operating at nearly full or full capacity. The factors limiting growth are the now widespread shortages of materials and many types of equipment in many parts of the country, and shortages of skilled and unskilled workers in many industries and many regions. I think the House is entitled to look at the fact that over the first nine months of this year there has been an increase in new jobs involving the employment of 417,000 men and women, which is the strongest increase in employment in the history of this country.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I thought the minister would go through that old song and dance about the strong rate of growth in the early part of the year.

**Mr. Hees:** And the land is strong—don't forget that.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stanfield:** Would the minister concede now that there is an upward trend in the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment in Canada today and in recent months, and do his economic indicators forecast to him that this is going to change, that the trend will be downward to, say, about 5 per cent by the end of the year? Is this what the minister is telling us or, on the other hand, is he simply indicating to us that he does not know what to do in the present circumstances?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** The indicators still are that the real growth in this country will be 7 per cent, as I indicated to the House on February 19, that this will produce a very strong growth in jobs, that the figures published today indicate that unemployment is highly concentrated among young people.

**Mr. Hees:** You don't care much about that.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** In seasonally adjusted terms, the movement of young people out of the labour force back into schools is something that we have to look into very seriously. In raw, unadjusted terms, the unemployment for men in this country over 25 is 2.9 per cent and for women 3.4 per cent.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASE—REQUEST THAT FUNDS FOR WINTER CAPITAL PROJECTS BE INCREASED

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, whatever other indicators the Minister of Finance may console himself with—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** You will still be voting for him.

**Mr. Lewis:**—the fact is that the unemployment rate has gone up. Since the rate has been going up and in view of the danger that unemployment may reach an even higher level during the winter months, will the minister act to increase the funds for winter capital projects so that there may actually be more work created through making available to provinces and municipalities the necessary amounts of money to carry out these works?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have said to the House that the underlying strength of the economy, as we see it, is there, that there is already in play \$100 million in LIP projects and there is still available under the three year winter capital works projects program an amount still unexhausted of \$275 million. I said to the hon. gentleman that the strength of the economy is there and that it is absorbing new workers into the labour force at a record rate. I want to say also to him that I take no consolation from the seasonally adjusted figures published this morning. I said they were startling and disconcerting, and I know what they mean in human terms.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lewis:** Arising out of the minister's answer, may I try to put the question this way. In view of the fact the information he has given us clearly underlines that private industrial expansion is not producing the jobs necessary to absorb the unemployed, probably because of modern automation and computerization, and in view of the fact that jobs can only be created through investment by governments at the federal, provincial and municipal levels, may I ask him whether he will, in a budget or in some other way, increase the amounts spent by governments in creating jobs, the only way in which jobs can be created?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Of course, direct governmental intervention is always under review. I have said to the House and to the hon. gentleman that the evidence seems to be apparent right across the country that there is a widespread shortage of labour in many regions and in many industries, both skilled and unskilled. But, as I say, we are always reviewing direct government intervention in the economy.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASE—EFFICACY OF MANPOWER CENTRES IN PLACING PEOPLE IN JOBS

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** I have another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister's answer to my second question brings me directly to a supplementary which I want to address, with your permission, Sir, to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the results of a survey made by the Ontario Department of Labour and other information showing that only about 11.5 per cent of those who find jobs find them through the manpower centres, and in view also of the information that a very small proportion of available jobs is registered with the manpower centres, which may explain the inability to match available jobs with unemployed people, may I ask the minister what steps he is going to take to make his department effective so that the Canadian unemployed