

Inquiries of the Ministry

tion of the unusual increase in April unemployment is concerned, and was any directive given to these manpower offices to come up with this kind of explanation?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, no direction was given to them whatsoever. This is simply a reflection of their reactions as men who are fully aware of conditions around them. They saw conditions generally in the country improving. Therefore when attempting to explain the figures for the week ending April 17 they noticed, for instance, that the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway was one of the latest on record, the snow stayed on the ground longer than usual—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lang: —and in this way many factors may have contributed to the fact that there were only 51,000 new jobs in that month when we ordinarily would have expected many more. We naturally hope these will show up in the next set of figures.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again we have to try to proceed in an orderly fashion. We have about ten minutes left before the end of the question period and we should try to limit supplementary questions to individual members. If the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate will allow me, I shall recognize the hon. member for Annapolis Valley on a supplementary.

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COMMUNICATIONS

APPOINTMENT OF PERMANENT MINISTER

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, this question is really related to an answer of the Prime Minister—I was going to ask him the question in another way—to the Leader of the Opposition and his reference to the government reorganization bill being held up and preventing government reorganization. Is it fair to conclude from his remarks that, notwithstanding the fact that we have a Department of Communications and had a Minister of Communications, he is going to wait until the government reorganization bill is passed before he puts a separate minister in charge of the Department of Communications, or is that department going to reside permanently in the hands of the Secretary of State?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

Mr. Nowlan: On a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will allow the hon. member a supplementary and then try to move on.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister seems to be in a very receptive frame of mind today I am going to be in a very positive frame of mind too. When he makes his trip to Russia, will he investigate whether culture and communications are a positive or negative

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

thing in so far as developing unity in a country is concerned?

Mr. Ryan: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope the hon. member is not suggesting that he is going to ask a question supplementary to the one which has just been asked. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

PROGRAM TO ASSIST UNEMPLOYED HEADS OF FAMILIES—
ASSUMPTION OF LARGER SHARE OF WELFARE COSTS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago the Prime Minister said the government must consider not only the needs of unemployed youth but also the heads of families. I want to ask the Prime Minister what the government proposes to do about heads of families who are unemployed. Since well over 350,000 of the unemployed have been unemployed for more than four months and many of them have used up their unemployment insurance benefits, and since the only recourse left is for them to go on welfare, what program does the government have in mind to help the heads of families who are unemployed?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this question was dealt with yesterday by the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Labour did not deal with the question any more than the Prime Minister has, and since the only alternative for these people seems to be to go on welfare, does the Prime Minister intend, at the forthcoming Prime Minister's conference, to discuss with the provinces the possibility that the federal government will assume a larger share of the welfare costs as long as unemployment is above a stated figure?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will recall the decision of the February conference he will remember that there was a request by the first ministers to have the welfare ministers report to them at the June conference, and this will be done.

UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON TAX
REFORMS AND REDUCTIONS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has talked about his feeling for the heads of families and I have listened to his answers in reference to programs. In light of the increasing unemployment in manufacturing and related industries—they employ, of course, heads of families—is the government going to or is it prepared to make a specific statement of intent with regard to tax reforms and reductions in order to stimulate and expand the economy now?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): This is the kind of thing that is done in the budget, Mr. Speaker,