

to miles per hour on all highway signs in the Province of Nova Scotia.

I would also like to report to this House that the federal Government, after forcing, by Order in Council, the retail grocers of this nation to go to kilograms, has decided to keep the federal stockyards of Canada, from Montreal right through to Prince Rupert, using imperial measurement on every pound of red meat we import and export from this country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Domm:** A word of congratulations should also go on the record to the Minister responsible for the Post Office. After forcing all of the gasoline dealers across this country to go to litres the Government has decided to continue to sell at its own Canada Post at the main post office branch in downtown Toronto, all gasoline by the gallon.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### ECONOMIC COUNCIL'S UNEMPLOYMENT FORECAST

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It has to do with unemployment. Incidentally, the House would be debating this subject today if it were not for the fact that it does not rank in the order of priorities of the NDP.

The Economic Council of Canada today, in an appearance before the Standing Committee on Labour and Manpower, forecast that unemployment would remain at around 11 per cent well into 1988, and indeed would increase in actual numbers. Given the fact that we have had a peek at the "cafeteria of job creation programs", and it is more like Mother Hubbard's cupboard, can the Minister give the House an assurance that whatever programs are introduced in the Speech from the Throne to create new jobs, they will be operable during the peak unemployment months of the winter?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, rather than look at forecasts put out by one organization I would have hoped that my hon. friend would have looked at the statistics that have been released this morning by Statistics Canada. These statistics show that, for the first time since 1972, inflation was down to 4.9 per cent last month. This is the first time we have inflation below 5 per cent in over 11 years.

As far as employment and unemployment are concerned, my hon. friend knows that Canada has been creating jobs faster than any other industrialized country this year. This record is one that we maintained during the seventies. During that decade Canada was creating jobs faster than any other indus-

trial country. That is the record and the performance that we, as a Government, want to pursue. We want to create jobs faster than anybody else and bring unemployment down as fast as we can. As to the forecasting question, I disagree with it.

#### CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES FIGURES

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, could the Minister explain to the House why Canada is still approximately one-quarter of a million jobs behind, since the commencement of the recession, as compared with the U.S. which not only has picked up the 1.5 million jobs lost, but has in fact created a million new jobs in the economy. How does the Minister explain that, and Canada's poor performance?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that the number of young people coming into the work force in Canada is proportionately larger than in the United States and the growth in the participation rate has been faster and larger than in the United States. Although we are creating jobs faster than anybody else we cannot bring unemployment down as fast as we would like because of the large increases in our manpower.

#### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT—IMPACT OF CAREER ACCESS PROGRAM

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, the only program now in place which addresses jobs for young people is the Career Access Program which called for \$90 million to create 31,000 jobs. That Program did not become operative until the end of September. We have had about a month or two of experience with that Program. Can the Minister tell the House how many jobs have been created under this Program, and can he give the House an assurance that whatever new programs are to be announced in the Speech from the Throne they will in fact become operative immediately so that their impact can be felt during the period of peak unemployment?

● (1420)

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to one particular program. He does not refer, for instance, to the Summer Canada Program that was in effect last year and also created thousands of jobs for young students. Rather than referring to a single program, I would point out there have been several programs addressed to youth which the federal Government has financed.

I would also like to remind him that about 40 per cent of the jobs created under the general job-creation programs of the Government of Canada have gone to young people. Thus, all the programs we have are addressed to Canadians at large, and young people are benefiting from them.

In addition, we have a number of programs addressed specifically to young people and, as my hon. colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, has said, he is reviewing those programs in order to try to ensure the young