

Inquiries of the Ministry

federal government is doing its best to find an earlier date, but when the provinces keep switching their minds and saying that dates on which they said they would be busy now happen to be free it does not make it any easier for the secretariat.

An hon. Member: Order.

Mr. Trudeau: What order do you want to refer to?

Mr. Stanfield: I suspect there may be a growing feeling of urgency among the provinces with regard to the meeting. I ask the Prime Minister what he hopes to accomplish from such a meeting with regard to employment this winter? I ask this particularly in view of the Prime Minister's statement that he does not think one day would be long enough. Has the right hon. member some specific proposals or objectives in mind and can he indicate these very briefly?

Mr. Trudeau: This question was asked before, Mr. Speaker, and my answer is still the same. If we have specific proposals to make from the point of view of the federal government, we will make them as soon as possible, independent of any federal-provincial conference. The conference itself would be following up the desire expressed by all governments in Victoria last June to meet on the economic situation, on taxation problems and problems of the economy generally. At such a conference I take it we would be looking at schemes that would be put forth by the provinces or the federal government which have to do with co-operation of both levels of government.

Mr. Stanfield: When may the House expect to know the proposals that the federal government has to make with regard to the stimulation of employment this winter, both its proposals relating to the provinces and proposals that might be exclusively funded by the federal government and completely within federal jurisdiction? When does the Prime Minister propose to disclose to the House the government's program?

Mr. Trudeau: In the case of federal programs, Mr. Speaker, as soon as possible. In the case of federal-provincial ones, it might be somewhat later.

[Translation]

ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROJECT TO ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Following the recent meeting of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities in Montreal, and since all municipalities are in a precarious situation, does the government intend to put into force, as in the past, a pilot project which would leave provinces free to participate? In other words, I would like to find out whether the federal government intends to introduce a pilot project; to which provinces could contribute.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Is the hon. member referring to a pilot project in any particular area? I apologize, Mr. Speaker, I did not understand—

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. Caouette: To help Canadian municipalities.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if we established such a pilot project, we would announce it in the House of Commons as usual. If the hon. member is referring to the program in effect December last, when we made some funds available to the provinces to enable them to borrow for themselves or the municipalities, I can say that we are reconsidering that kind of program and that if it is satisfactory, we will restore it and make an announcement in that connection.

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT—SUBSTANTIAL WINTER WORKS PROGRAM TO COPE WITH PROBLEM

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): In view of the announcements by Premier Davis and Premier Schreyer that they are ready to attend an earlier meeting, and in view of the proposal by Mr. Nixon, the Liberal leader, last night that a substantial winter works program be inaugurated in an effort to meet the unemployment problem, may I ask whether the government is considering undertaking on its own account or jointly with the provinces a very large program of works in the near future to try to deal with unemployment?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): In view of the fact that I proposed to Premier Schreyer and Premier Davis last July that we should hold meetings in October and that such meetings were not possible, I will consider the hon. gentleman's question and see whether I can provide an answer another day.

Mr. Orlikow: Will the federal government be going to the meeting with the provinces to discuss unemployment with specific proposals for joint federal-provincial-municipal programs to help meet the unemployment problem?

Mr. Trudeau: Possibly, Mr. Speaker.

DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES OF TAX-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS AT FORTHCOMING FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to ask a supplementary question in light of the Prime Minister's answer. He talked about preparatory meetings. As there is an anxiety complex at the present time with reference to tax measures, will he place on the agenda the question of the sharing of tax revenues between the provinces and the federal government? I am thinking particularly about the abolition of the estate tax and whether in fact the provinces will share in the capital gains tax inasmuch as there is an anxiety complex about the shortage of revenue because of the size of social welfare rolls across the country.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): That is a complex question. As to the first part of it concerning tax-sharing arrangements, the answer is yes. We are planning to discuss this matter, either at the meeting of first ministers or at the meeting of finance ministers should that take place beforehand.