

*Oral Questions**[English]*

came up with a recommendation against such a step. I think there are indeed very solid and valid reasons why that proposal has many difficulties. What I have done instead has been to add \$100 million to a particular program for the farming community which is going to help farmers in difficulty. This will allow the Farm Credit Corporation under the Farm Financial Assistance Act to provide help and support to the farming community.

I might remind my hon. friend that in addition, as far as the farmers are concerned, the Minister of Agriculture has numerous programs which he has put forward and which he had support for, at least on this side of the House, when they came before the House. As a matter of fact there is one called Canagrex which we would very much like to see the Opposition support very soon. That proposal would be of great benefit to Canadian farmers too. There are plenty of opportunities to help the farmers if the Opposition want to do their share.

● (1450)

INQUIRY RESPECTING PROGRAMS TO ASSIST AGRICULTURE

Hon. John Wise (Elgin): Madam Speaker, the minister talks about the complications and difficulty in implementing the agri-bond concept. Naturally, we cannot accept that.

The other fact that we want to make clear, and I am sure the Minister would agree, is that of the \$100 million going to the Farm Credit Corporation there would only be about \$8 million in the form of a direct subsidy to farmers in distress. Why did the Minister again ignore three other measures that would be in the interest of agriculture and which would indeed fulfil, or partially fulfil, some longstanding election campaign promises on behalf of his Party? Why did he miss the opportunity to eliminate the federal tax on farm fuels, to make appropriate amendments to Section 31 of the Income Tax Act, and again make some significant and meaningful changes in the capital gains legislative area. Why did he not utilize the opportunity to implement those more simple programs last night in his budget?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that I have received hundreds of recommendations and proposals, and that many of them were very attractive. I certainly was very interested in considering whether they could be implemented. However, we cannot do everything at once. I have tried to propose a set of measures that will be most likely to give the economy a chance to create as many jobs as possible, as quickly as possible. The Hon. Member is referring to suggestions and proposals that I would have liked to implement, and there are hundreds of others, but unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, I have saved a few for the next budget. I hope he will be luckier next time.

MINES AND MINING

CYPRUS ANVIL MINE PROPOSAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Last week I asked the Prime Minister in the House if Cabinet would be meeting to discuss the proposal to reactivate the Cyprus Anvil Mine in the Yukon. I now ask the Prime Minister if Cabinet has reached a decision on that proposal which would see at least some proportion of the 30 per cent unemployed workers in the Yukon back to work immediately? Will the Prime Minister confirm that such a decision has been reached and, if so, would he give us the details of that decision?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, indeed Cabinet has met repeatedly on this subject. The present situation is that we have authorized the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to visit the Yukon and presumably try out some propositions. He has the authority to negotiate some possible arrangements. He has the authority of Cabinet to do that, but I am not in a position to make any announcement because I do not know the state of those negotiations between the Minister and the administrators of the Yukon and of the mine itself.

REPORT OF ANNOUNCEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): It is passing strange that the Prime Minister could not be more specific, because I understand from media reports that at this moment the Minister is in Whitehorse announcing a \$50 million package for the recovery of the Cyprus Anvil Mine, with 210 workers being recalled, \$25 million in a loan fully repayable to the federal Government, and with the Yukon Government helping out. I think it is regrettable that the Prime Minister would not have chosen to have made that announcement in the House when asked the question. I ask the Prime Minister again if he will confirm that such an announcement is being made in Whitehorse at this very moment?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, it seems to me that the Hon. Member will understand that if we can have an announcement in the House by the Hon. Member, and one up North from the Minister, we get double coverage for it. I am very happy that happened.

I am only sorry that the Member for Yukon has shown such great disinterest in this whole subject, to the point where he is not even in the House of Commons when his colleague is making this announcement.