

Oral Questions

PERSONS BEREFT OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, there are 1.5 million people in this country presently unemployed. Upwards of 20 per cent of those people are on the verge of or have already run out of unemployment insurance payments. Those people cannot find employment because there is no employment, notwithstanding what the Minister says. What does he suggest that those people should do, given that they cannot find a job, given that they cannot get unemployment insurance, and given that the Government seems incapable of coming forward with any rational policies that will offer them any kind of hope?

● (1130)

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, not only is what the Hon. Member says rubbish, it is also damaging. I have to tell him that, if he wants to quote numbers, there are over 30 million unemployed in the industrial countries, in the OECD countries at the present time.

Mr. Deans: Who gives a damn? You operate here.

Mr. Lalonde: I know the Hon. Member does not give a damn. We give a damn about that situation.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lalonde: We have taken steps consistently over the years. As I indicated, we have allocated more public funds to help Canadian people during this period of recession than at any other time in our history.

Mr. Deans: Answer my question.

Mr. Lalonde: I have to tell the Hon. Member that these measures are producing results. We are creating jobs in the country as fast as any other industrialized country at the present time.

Mr. Deans: Answer the question.

Mr. Lalonde: That is what we are doing. The record is there to show quite clearly that not only have we taken steps to protect the social safety net in the country while other countries have cut it, but we have also announced in the budget a series of measures which are having an effect at the present time and are showing growth in employment in our country as fast if not faster than any other country. This is the record.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF MR. LORNE GREENE,
CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO 1984 OLYMPICS

Madam Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of Mr. Lorne Greene, Canada's Ambassador to the 1984 Olympics at Los Angeles.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

EXPLODING SOFT DRINK BOTTLES

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, that is a "Bonanza" of a presence in the gallery.

My question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Following recent and very serious allegations about the safety of the 750-millilitre-size pop bottles which can explode under certain conditions, has the Minister contacted industry representatives? If so, what has been their reaction? If not, what will be her recommendation when she meets with the industry?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. His timing is nothing short of terrific. I am meeting with the industry this afternoon. We have already had a meeting of my Department and the industrial technical committee. This afternoon we will discuss further measures based on those earlier discussions.

The Hon. Member brought out the fact that the 750-millilitre bottle is a very real problem. We are looking at various methods. The first one is a public awareness campaign to make the people of the country aware that indeed this is a problem and that it should be treated with great care.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): I am sure the industry will be interested to learn and pleased to know about the Minister's acceptance of a public awareness campaign, which I think is needed.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, I am also interested in the Minister's statement on CBC "Marketplace" last week when she held a 750-millilitre Coke bottle and she said, "I don't understand why they can't do it". Do what? And, whatever it is, is that a reflection of Government policy? Has the Minister made up her mind in terms of protecting the public?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): As I said earlier, Madam Speaker, yes, the first move is a public awareness campaign. Do what? Make people aware that this is and could be a dangerous object. That is the first measure we will take. There are other measures, and those