

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend would let me answer his question instead of jumping up, I would be pleased to answer it. We are continually making forecasts as to what will happen to the GNP, productivity and business activity in 1971. I would not state there would be a decline in the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment if I did not think there was going to be an increase in the GNP during 1971.

Mr. Stanfield: If the Minister of Finance is making these forecasts, will he tell the House what the estimated increase in the gross national product is? That is a simple question and one capable of a simple answer instead of all this skating and evasion.

Mr. Benson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall be pleased to give a simple answer when I make my next budget statement to the House.

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

AVAILABILITY OF INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS TO RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Labour prompted by the erroneous statement of the Prime Minister. Would the Minister of Labour assure us that the miners idled in Cape Breton through the efforts of a Crown company will get the 10 per cent increase which was made available on January 3, 1971?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): The policy of the Unemployment Insurance Commission as far as the 10 per cent increase is concerned was not to take this into consideration when assessing other income. In other words, no one was to be penalized for the special benefit as a result of the 10 per cent.

Mr. MacInnis: When the minister says nobody will be penalized, does he mean that Devco will not be penalized but that the men will be?

Mr. Mackasey: I am more interested in the men than I am in Devco.

Mr. MacInnis: Will the minister follow through and make sure the men will get the 10 per cent, not Devco?

Mr. Mackasey: The men who are on retirement from Devco between the ages of 60 and 65 are in receipt of unemployment insurance benefits and if they are entitled to the maximum they are deriving \$58 from unemployment insurance benefits. The Unemployment Insurance Commission has—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we might return to the question raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond in a few moments, but there are other supplementaries, I believe, on the general question raised by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. Perhaps we might return to this matter in a few minutes.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacInnis: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I shall only take the time of the House long enough to tell the minister that the statement he has just made is not in accordance with the facts.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—NUMBER OF PERSONS WHOSE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS HAVE EXPIRED

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): In view of the fact that unemployment insurance benefits can run out after a period of only 15 weeks, can the Minister of Labour advise the House as to the number of persons who have exhausted their right to unemployment insurance benefits?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): I could inquire and find out, but the hon. member is asking for statistical information and to obtain it would take a little research.

Mr. Rose: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair will allow the hon. member a supplementary, but he might resume his seat. I am inclined to agree with the hon. minister's comment made in his reply to the hon. member's question, but the hon. member might like to rephrase his question.

Mr. Rose: I fully appreciate that this is information which could be given as part of a statement on motions. I was about to ask the minister whether he would include the number of people who are in receipt of unemployment insurance benefits and who, because these benefits are inadequate, are also in receipt of welfare?

Mr. Mackasey: One of the attractive features of the new plan is that it will be unnecessary for those drawing unemployment insurance benefits to supplement it with welfare.

An hon. Member: Next year.

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[Translation]

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ENGLISH AND FRENCH TEXTS OF STATEMENT OF CONCLUSIONS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, Friday last, in the absence of the Prime Minister, I asked the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Sharp) whether he could explain the difference between the French and English texts of the communique published following the last federal-provincial conference, as recorded moreover at page 3325 of *Hansard*, especially the terms "exprimer sa sympathie" and "admettre ou accepter la proposition".

Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the minister has effectively submitted the problem to me. I