

Oral Questions

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I would be very pleased to look into the specific matter which the Hon. Member has brought to my attention. I would like to point out, however, that under the National Training Act we do make available pre-skills training programs to local community colleges and organizations which want to sponsor pre-skills pre-trades programs where they can help individuals get up to a certain level of competence, whether it is in mathematics, English, or other basic skills, so that they can become eligible for the longer-term training programs. We are prepared to help with funding under that program. I would be very pleased to provide information to the Hon. Member so she could pass it on to those in her own constituency who might want to start such programs.

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FINANCE

REFUNDABLE EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT PROPOSED FOR WOMEN

Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Almost one-half of single-parent families headed by women are today living in poverty. The rate of unemployment among these women has increased by 60 per cent over the last year. Will the Minister consider a targeted refundable employment tax credit, or wage subsidy program, for this particular group? This is a concept which has been put forward by my colleagues on other occasions, and which has been endorsed in general terms by the Economic Council of Canada.

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I shall take the Hon. Member's suggestion as a representation for the purposes of the budget, and it will be considered accordingly.

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[English]

BANK OF CANADA

ADVICE GIVEN BY GOVERNOR

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. If the Minister were one of the nearly two million people unemployed, or one of the two million people on welfare, or one of the tens of thousands of people who are living daily under the threat of layoff, or one of the small-business men going bankrupt these days, or one of the hundreds of thousands of students who are about to enter the job market in a few weeks, and if he had listened to Governor Bouey's speech on Friday when the Governor advised the Minister of Finance to stay on course, to ignore the high unemployment levels, or to accept them, to accept the high levels of bankruptcy, to ignore the

human tragedy going on, would the Minister of Finance not agree that the Governor of the Bank of Canada has entered the never-never land of Peter Pan and has really lost touch with the people of Canada and the realities of Canada?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is wrong on several points. The Governor of the Bank of Canada did not make a speech last Friday. He gave a press conference. Also he did not state what the Hon. Member attributes to him. I have read the transcript of the Governor's statement, and he did not say what the Hon. Member says he said.

REQUEST THAT ANNUAL REPORT BE LAST SUBMITTED BY GOVERNOR

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, Governor Bouey's advice to the Minister of Finance in his annual report is very clear. He is advising more of the same. I suggest to the Minister of Finance that he is going against the advice of Canadians who are asking the Government in the upcoming budget to be bold, to be thoughtful, to take action to provide some stimulus to create jobs and get Canadians back to work. Considering that the advice of the Governor of the Bank of Canada is contrary to the advice of most Canadians, will the Minister of Finance assure this House that the Governor of the Bank of Canada will never again submit an annual report such as the one he has just tabled for 1982?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Riis: That is what the people of Canada feel about it. Will the Minister ensure that Governor Bouey will never submit another report again?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): No, Madam Speaker.

[English]

POSITIONS OF GOVERNOR AND MINISTER

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Finance, if I can get his attention away from the daffodils which we have today from the West Coast. The Minister has recently indicated that, if he is going to stimulate the economy in his April budget, the deficit could rise to an unprecedented level of \$30 billion or more. We have the Governor of the Bank of Canada now warning very clearly that our economic problems cannot be resolved by vigorous use of financial stimulation, since this could only lead to further inflation, a point which the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap has ignored. Are the Finance Minister, who is responsible for fiscal policy, and the Governor of the central bank, who runs monetary policy, on a collision course?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): No, Madam Speaker.