

course, and which suggests certain specific actions of which the Minister of Finance spoke.

The parliamentary secretary is perfectly justified in suggesting there should be no departure from the macroeconomic stance and there should be no massive injection of public printed dollars into the economy at this time. I am happy to continue this examination of the text, Madam Speaker, but it is the reality on this side which is more important to me, the fact that this cabinet and caucus are very much united.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** What is the reality?

**Mr. Nielsen:** You would not recognize reality if you fell over it.

#### REQUESTS FOR CHANGES IN BUDGET

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Speaking of reality, I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell us how many—we know of ten—of his cabinet colleagues and caucus members not in cabinet have been in touch with him asking for changes in the budget. Could he give us a figure?

**Mr. Crosbie:** That is macroeconomics for you.

**Mr. Nowlan:** It is macaroni economics, not macroeconomics.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition continues to insist that the letter asks for a change in the budget. Let me read from the third paragraph of that letter dated February 3.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Table it. It is an historic document.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The letter has been made public, Madam Speaker. The members themselves indicate that they are—Madam Speaker, the letter says:

[*Translation*]

As members for central and eastern Montreal, we realize that any real and durable but long-term improvement of the employment situation can only be achieved by controlling inflation.

[*English*]

That is exactly the position of the Minister of Finance and of this government, Madam Speaker. I would ask the Leader of the Opposition and his party to realize, once and for all, that if inflation is high the first thing we must do is bring it down.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Bring down the government is the thing to do.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, the hon. member for St. John's West is now waxing nostalgic and talking about bringing down governments.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Look where it got us.

#### *Oral Questions*

**Mr. Trudeau:** From his lofty perch in External Affairs I would hope he would reflect a little more on what he said about the people of Gabon last year—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:**—and study the subject a little more.

\* \* \*

[*Translation*]

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### PROGRAM PUT FORWARD BY QUEBEC—PROPOSAL THAT MINISTERS HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH QUEBEC

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, I shall, if I may, continue reading the extract from the third paragraph read to us by the Right Hon. Prime Minister after he acknowledged that his policy depended on controlling inflation. The ten members, two of them ministers, also said:

However, we believe that it is possible, without overstimulating the economy, to create jobs now in certain critical sectors.

The sectors are specified in the letter. Also considering, Madam Speaker, that last week, the Right Hon. Prime Minister received proof that the ten premiers had completely lost faith in his basic philosophy regarding the economy, and that the province of Quebec proposed a program that would prevent and put a stop to the rash of factory shutdowns—a \$200 million program to which Quebec is prepared to contribute \$50 million—is the Right Hon. Prime Minister willing, in the circumstances and following representations made by his own members and ministers, to at least send one of these two ministers to discuss the program with Quebec, keeping in mind the best interests of Quebec as well?

● (1425)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, every week the government has been announcing job-creation measures. Last week, the minister responsible for advanced technology was investing something like \$90 million in the development of technology-based industries. Today, the Minister of Employment and Immigration announced a program to create jobs in the forestry industry. The Minister of Finance, in speeches to which I referred earlier, pointed out that something like \$60 billion would be spent over the next five years to create employment. The minister invited the members of our caucus, who accepted the invitation, to indicate the critical sectors where they would like to see some action. And I shall repeat once again what the minister said on January 25: "Fiscal restraint does not and will not prohibit the government from taking targeted and specific measures to improve growth, productivity and investment."

So once again, if the official opposition wishes to make concrete proposals, we shall welcome them. Such proposals are