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1 Federal system as it is at the present time, than it would
2 have in the hypothesis of separation; or negotiating some
3 kind of "independence-with-association"-- whatever that
4 means -- a free trade area; Customs union; or a common
5 market. I don't know. But the economic cards of Quebec
6 and the political cards of Quebec-- in terms of such an
7 association--are not those that the Separatists claim that
8 they are!

9 MEMBER OF THE PRESS: Mr. Minister, I wonder to
10 what degree do the economic problems that Canada is having,
11 right now, contribute to this polarization that you identified
12 earlier?

13 MINISTER LALONDE: Oh, I think those problems
14 were in existence when Canada knew a rate of growth which
15 was higher than the one we have known lately; and which
16 was lower in unemployment and lower in inflation. So I
17 don't think you can attribute this just to high unemploy-
18 ment, or high inflation, at a particular time.

19 One could even argue, with that, that the difficult
20 economic situation in Quebec is not helping the Separatist
21 cause; that people are getting more and more concerned
22 about the consequences of the type of political education
23 we have known in Quebec over the last few years.

24 MR. UNGAR: What is the unemployment figure in
25 Quebec?