

*Oral Questions*

encourage that to happen. I believe, as the recovery from the recession continues and strengthens, we will see in the next year that the private sector will be more and more eager to take up the possibilities which those plans envisaged. I expect, therefore, that we will be able to overcome the problem which I described is the one we had last year.

As for the impact of economic recovery, that is a question which I and the Minister of Finance have dealt with in the House on frequent occasions. If the hon. gentleman is more specific in his supplementary, I will try to give him a response.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT PLANS

**Mr. Gerry St. Germain (Mission-Port Moody):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary is for the same Minister. The Minister knows that the Government has discouraged private sector job creation, and we cannot depend solely on the spillover from the American economic recovery. What are the Government's plans for working with the private sector on the establishment of long-term jobs, and I mean in definitive terms? Why does the Ministry seem to be waiting for a Speech From the Throne to announce those plans?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Again, Madam Speaker, the assumption of the Hon. Member's question is entirely mistaken. The kind of tax changes which were proposed by my colleague, the Minister of Finance, in his last budget were expressly designed to provide assistance to the private sector in creating jobs. What we do wish to have is a co-operative partnership with the private sector in creating jobs. That is also the premise which we have followed in using, for instance, Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, to work with the private sector and in using unemployment insurance funds to create jobs through the private sector which will be of long-term benefit to the economy.

In the hon. gentleman's own Province, I could say there are a variety of projects which we have developed, for instance, those under the Employment Bridging Assistance Program which was directed to co-operation with the private sector to create jobs, but the rug was pulled out from underneath those programs by his provincial Government. I wish the Hon. Member would speak to his provincial Government about that.

## GOVERNMENT POSITION ON ACHIEVEMENT OF FULL EMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. He will know that yesterday the Bank of Montreal suggested the possibility of full employment in Canada was millions of years away and predicted the likelihood of unemployment reaching at least 15 per cent by the end of this decade. Countries such as Austria, Sweden, Norway, and even Japan, have managed to obtain full employment. These countries are highly competitive with us and are highly productive. Why is Canada unable to do the same as they have done?

● (1440)

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, it is difficult to respond to that question with a short reply. I am not responsible for the Bank of Montreal's assessment. There are a whole variety of assessments of what is likely to happen in the future in relation to employment, and there are a whole host of definitions of what constitutes full employment. It is not particularly useful to have rhetorical quibbles over what constitutes full employment. That does not provide any better basis for action than setting objectives in terms of job creation and expenditure programs.

To simplify very much the substance of the reply to the Hon. Member's specific question, I suggest that the most appropriate way to answer the question he posed is to look at the growth of the labour force in those countries which he described. He will find that it is very different from the rate of labour growth in Canada.

**Mr. Riis:** We on this side certainly have no difficulty defining full employment. It means that every man and woman in the country who is able to work has full employment. I do not think that is very mysterious at all.

## REQUEST FOR MASSIVE STIMULATION OF ECONOMY

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Japan has full employment because of a co-operative approach to its economy. It has a planned economy, a low inflation rate, and low interest rates. However, it realizes that a very difficult winter is coming. Japan has just announced a massive stimulation program for its economy.

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Riis:** The same situation will exist in our country in the winter months—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps the Hon. Member could describe the situation in Japan on some other occasion. For the time being, we would appreciate a question.

**Mr. Riis:** Madam Speaker, why is the Minister not taking similar steps in our country to provide massive stimulation to the economy in order to make Canada's winter a little less bleak for Canadians?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I do not know where the Hon. Member has been. Quite clearly we have had stimulation.

**Some Hon. Members:** Where? Where?

**Mr. Roberts:** Given the levels of deficit we are experiencing at the present time, that constitutes an extraordinary stimulation of the Canadian economy. The bringing forward of the Special Recovery Program of \$2.5 billion of construction expenditure, and of the NEED Program in Employment and Immigration, constitutes the kind of stimulation that creates