

Oral Questions

inflation in the country. That is one of the pre-conditions. It is not the sole element.

The Minister of Finance in his economic statement underscored the importance of the six and five program, and added further elements in the process of building up that trust and confidence. The Hon. Member will realize that concrete evidence of recovery in other countries such as the United States would do as much to restore trust and confidence for the investor as any of the notions that he has put forward to the House.

PREPARATION OF SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Madam Speaker, the concrete evidence is that over the last few days these people who normally create more jobs than any other segment of society, "the engine of recovery", to use the words of the Minister of Finance, instead of buying a pick-up truck, a piece of equipment, or embarking on imaginative projects or marketing programs, have been buying Canada Savings Bonds, not out of patriotism but simply because they do not have the confidence to do anything with that capital except to let it sit another year. That is to that issue and I wish and I plead with the Deputy Prime Minister that he direct himself. They are not deterred by international condition. They simply do not have enough confidence at the moment to fulfil their traditional role.

The House Leader indicated a week or two ago that the Throne Speech is ready. I am now a little concerned because the Prime Minister said on the weekend it was still being worked on in terms of some recovery program.

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member took a minute and a half on his first question. The second one should be very much shorter.

Mr. Jarvis: I apologize, Madam Speaker. Is the Throne Speech ready? If not, when does the Deputy Prime Minister expect it to be ready and when might this House hear it?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, when it is the intention of the Government to present the Speech from the Throne, the House will be notified. That decision has not yet been taken. I believe the Government House Leader has had consultations with respect to the legislative program, with his opposite numbers. I believe the progress that is now being made on that important legislative program will justify its completion or, indeed, substantial progress in that direction, before bringing down a Speech from the Throne.

USE OF ENERGY TAX TO ENCOURAGE CANADIAN OWNERSHIP

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Madam Speaker, I have a final supplementary. In terms of priority, will the Deputy Prime Minister agree that the Government, collecting over \$700 million a year for its Canadian ownership program—four cents a gallon—and knowing the difficulty the Minister of Finance has with a lack of funds for job creation, could use that in

excess of \$700 million far more wisely and far more effectively on programs that would create jobs, whether it be research and development, capital equipment or whatever? In terms of priority, will he agree that would be a much more effective use of that \$700 million in taxpayers' money, given the 1.5 million unemployed today?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member realizes that there are a number of objectives that have to be pursued simultaneously in the national interest. The Canadian ownership charge has been approved by Parliament for a specific purpose. It cannot be used for any other purpose except the purpose that was decided upon by the Parliament of Canada, namely, that it should be used to increase the ownership of Canadians in the energy sector.

• (1420)

The Hon. Member has talked about the necessity for job creation. The Minister of Finance, in his recent statement, has put forward very large sums, added to the large sums already available for job creation in the country. Both these objectives are therefore being pursued simultaneously by the Government.

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MACDONALD ROYAL COMMISSION

REQUEST THAT MINISTER SPEND WEEK IN RIDING

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister also and it concerns the appointment of the Macdonald Royal Commission. We do not know how much that will cost. We do know that the reporting date is three years in the future, but it is Canadians today who are out of jobs, Canadians who are feeling the effects of stress illness. I would like to ask the Minister whether or not he thinks another ivory-tower exercise of this kind is better than the Minister himself going back to his riding for one solid week to talk to the people who are in trouble and the people who have creative ideas on how to get the economy going. Will the Deputy Prime Minister commit himself to going back to his riding for one week to talk to the people, instead of giving us another ivory-tower exercise?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I very much disagree with the Hon. Member's description of the proposed Royal Commission as an ivory-tower exercise. The Chairman of the Commission is not the kind of person who would conduct an ivory-tower exercise. It will be a down-to-earth and realistic appraisal of the long-term prospects of the Canadian economy and in what direction that economy ought to be encouraged to evolve in the medium term. There is nothing "ivory tower" about that exercise. I also would like to tell the Hon. Member that I do not need any advice from him