

that the collapse in the value of our dollar is "only the most visible symptom of the profound troubles in the Canadian economy" at the present time, is the Prime Minister aware of the decline of such international confidence in the future of the Canadian economy, and does he plan to take any concrete steps to restore international confidence in Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member reads that article very carefully, he will see that it makes the same argument I made in the House a couple of days ago about Canadians living beyond their means, which brought such loud guffaws from hon. members in the Tory Party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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MANPOWER

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AVOID LAY-OFFS AT COLLINGWOOD SHIPYARD

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Labour, both of whom should answer this question, I will turn to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and see if I can get somewhere with him.

Mr. Paproski: I doubt it.

Mr. Hees: In view of the impending lay-off of most if not all of the 1,000 man work force at the Collingwood shipyard because of lack of orders, which is symbolic of the condition this government has allowed the economy to get into, has the government been in touch with this important operation, and if so, what plans does the government have for averting this very serious lay-off.

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, when we get co-operation from employers, the Department of Manpower and Immigration moves its officials in to proffer what advice and help they can. In addition, in the event that we are advised that it is inevitable that there will be a lay-off, we invariably set up a team in conjunction with the employer to see if these people can find other jobs, get more training or be moved, through our mobility grants, to other regions of the country.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, as the company has been in touch with the government on this very important matter and as there have been no results, is the proposal to train people in the plant for other jobs the best the government can do? Other jobs simply do not exist because of the serious unemployment situation. Has the government no plans at all for trying to revive the normal operation of this shipbuilding plant?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, it is the prime objective and the prime purpose—

Mr. Hees: Why don't you do something about it?

Oral Questions

Mr. Cullen: —to do what can be done about the problem faced by a particular corporation. From time to time we have to face reality, but if a problem can be solved, we do what we can. We try to work in concert with the companies because it is in their interest, our interest and, most assuredly, in the interest of the employees to do everything we can to keep the company in operation.

Mr. Hees: Is that not government gobbledegook for saying "We don't care and we are going to do absolutely nothing"?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Ottawa West.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

INQUIRY INTO APPOINTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES—DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND COMPOSITION

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Privy Council. Further to the minister's statement of February 4 to this House, can he now state when the committee of inquiry into the operation of the Public Service Employment Act will start its work, and who will be its members?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the committee of inquiry to which the hon. member refers has begun its work. The hon. member may recall that in my statement on the subject I indicated that this study or review is to be a two-phased operation. The first phase is to consist of an examination by each side of the problems raised in the terms of reference, and when that first phase is completed there is to be a coming together of the two sides under a chairman. We have appointed the representative of the government side, Mr. Bruce Brittain, the Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, and on the staff side the representative is Mr. Des Davidge, President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The work of the first phase has commenced, and when it is completed, or even before that, a chairman will be named to conclude the study.

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MANPOWER

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY—MEASURES TO IMPROVE PROGRAM

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, who stated in reply to a question by me on March 11 that he would look into the efficiency and effectiveness of the CES program in his department and make it better. In view of the increasingly urgent need to use every means available to solve extremely heavy unemployment, can the minister now say what steps have been instituted to expedite this program and