

*Oral Questions*

not very deeply concerned about unemployment, that every unemployed person is a matter of concern. We do not have a certain figure that unemployment will reach in the future where we become concerned. We are concerned now, and we are doing everything within our power to assist, through the various programs that have been announced in the past month by various ministers. In housing, we have increased rental units financing that will create an additional 40,000 jobs. We have expanded the operation of Sections 37 and 38 of the unemployment insurance fund that will help probably an equivalent number of workers in the country to have jobs.

**Miss MacDonald:** 1,200,000 unemployed.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Through the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans we have established programs that will provide employment for, I think, about 25,000 to 40,000 jobs in that industry.

**Miss MacDonald:** This is the rhetoric.

**Mr. MacEachen:** We have increased our training programs up to a sum of \$1 billion in order to meet the training needs of persons in Canada. We are doing everything possible within the means at our disposal to assist the unemployed people of Canada. We will continue to do that and we are not waiting for some figure in the future that will oblige us to take action. We are taking action now.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**

## NEGOTIATIONS OVER IMPORTS OF JAPANESE VEHICLES

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (Halton):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for International Trade. He should know that one third of all automotive assembly employees in Canada have either lost jobs or have been laid off. And he should know also that 40 per cent of Canadians working in the auto parts sector have lost their jobs as of today. Yet the minister has failed to curb the flow of Japanese imports into Canada; he has failed to negotiate a fair deal with Japan; he has failed to negotiate fair Canadian content regulations in offshore imports into Canada.

How much longer does the government intend to continue to negotiate, while jobs are being lost in Canada? How many more lost jobs will it take before the government takes the necessary unilateral action to stop the flow of Japanese imports into this country and save Japanese jobs?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member meant to say "save Canadian jobs", not Japanese jobs.

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

**Mr. Lumley:** Madam Speaker, the hon. member will be the first member to know when we strike a very positive relationship with the Japanese concerning the automobile industry.

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● (1250)

**INDUSTRY**

## RATIONALIZATION OF RUBBER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

**Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. For more than three years, the minister has been dealing with a plan to allow the rubber industry to rationalize production in Canada. I am particularly interested in a plan put forward by Firestone Canada that would allow them some limited product rationalization.

The minister promised in 1980 and 1981 that this matter would be resolved. Is the minister prepared to announce a date when he will approve Firestone's plan? Is he prepared to recognize the millions of dollars that this company has spent to bring this new production facility into being by stating exactly when he will announce the decision on Firestone's application? If he is not prepared to give that date, is he prepared to see several more thousands added to the more than 1 million unemployed?

[Translation]

**Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for his question. At the present time, the department is looking into the latest data on rubber production and should very shortly, through the minister, be able to clarify the situation and propose measures to satisfy the requirements of the entire industry.

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[English]

**THE ECONOMY**

## LAY-OFFS IN NORTHERN MANITOBA

**Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Finance whose economic policies have been an absolute disaster. His defence for this is other countries. In our country we have 24 million people and opportunities in every part of it—resource based, agricultural based—yet his defence is other countries. Because of the number of job lay-offs in northern Manitoba—Flin-Flon, for the first time in its history, INCO is looking at lay-offs in Thompson, Ruttan Lake has lay-offs—what guarantee can the minister give these Canadians that they will have a job by this summer?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I am not in any