

shut down the whole town of Uranium City by his actions, in terms of the unemployment which has been caused by the policies of this Government, not only in Glace Bay but in the Yukon, and in Saskatchewan, what initiatives will the Minister take—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** —to help these people who are suffering unemployment because of policies of the Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair can only apply the rules of the House. It is a well established rule of the House that a question must relate to a Minister in his present portfolio. It cannot relate to the function of a Minister in a previous portfolio.

Today we apparently are going to set a record with the fewest number of questioners on deck. I invite Hon. Members to reflect on how long a preamble should be, and whether there are any rules at all left for Question Period. I invite the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West to direct the question, if he wishes, to the Minister of Finance, within the rules, bearing in mind his present capacity in the Government.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your references. I simply ask the Minister this question. His Government is responsible for putting literally thousands of Canadians out of work in the mining industry. What is the Minister going to do in terms of a new economic statement, or new initiatives which are going to assist these people who have been deceived and let down by this Government? I ask the Minister that simple question.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if I may repeat some of my earlier statements, it is strange indeed to hear the Leader of the Opposition complaining about unemployment, particularly since there is probably nobody in Canada who has thrown so many people out of work as he did when he was president of a well-known company. As a matter of fact, the community of Schefferville has been turned into a ghost town and half the North Shore is deserted thanks to the efforts of my colleague who is now the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. He knows that!

Now that I see his new House leader bite his nail because of the situation in the mining industry, I would suggest that he turn to his leader and ask him what he did or did not do when he was in charge of the Iron Ore Company. I remind him that, when it comes to the Canadian mining industry, ours is practically the most generous tax structure in terms of assistance to that industry.

### *Oral Questions*

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I again invite Hon. Members to remember that this was originally intended as a Question Period in which questions could be asked and answers given. It is becoming more and more difficult for the Chair. The questions are long from both sides, and sometimes I can barely distinguish a question. In fairness, if the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West wants to put a supplementary question, I invite him to do so.

**An Hon. Member:** I have a nice short one.

**Mr. Speaker:** No? The Hon. Member for Joliette.

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[*Translation*]

### UNEMPLOYMENT

#### GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Finance, given the deplorable situation in which Canadians find themselves now. The Minister of Finance may be “disappointed”, but Canadians are discouraged.

Under the circumstances, once again the Minister of Finance stands up in the House and promises Canadians that unemployment will go down. In his Budget speech, however, he did commit himself to keep at least 10 per cent of Canadians unemployed in the next five years.

In what context and when will the Minister of Finance be honest enough to tell Canadians that the Government they have today has pledged to keep unemployment at 10 per cent, a level which we think is indecently high in Canada today?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the best solution to the problems raised by the Hon. Member would be to begin by reading the Budget papers, for he will realize that his allegation is completely unfounded, just like the statements made by several Conservative Members who claim that the Government grabs 90 per cent of the savings of Canadians through borrowing. The Government takes about 25 per cent, not 90 per cent.

With respect to the projections, the Hon. Member ought to look them up in the Fiscal Plan which was tabled on Budget day, if only to confirm that we expect Canada's unemployment rate to decline sharply in the next five years, to less than 10 per cent. Indeed, we expect unemployment to dip down to about 8 per cent by the end of that time, not 10 per cent. If my colleague should at least go to the trouble of reading those documents, perhaps he might be better informed.

Secondly, I may very well be “disappointed”, but unlike the Hon. Member I am not discouraged by the economic trend, quite the contrary. While he is reading the Fiscal Plan, he