

*Oral Questions*

● (1420)

The Hon. Member talks about violence in Toronto, Madam Speaker. I suggest it is programs like unemployment insurance, cost-sharing work programs and the other safety nets established by Liberal Governments over the years which have provided for stability and, perhaps not eliminated, but certainly made the social stability in Canada the envy of many other countries in this world, including our neighbour to the south. That has been the effect of existing programs, but the Government has never been satisfied with the status quo. We are always looking forward. Indeed, if further modifications can be made that will help improve that situation, they will be made.

## JOB-CREATION INITIATIVES—TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, it is because of this forward looking Government that I would like to direct a question to the Right Hon. Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Again on the weekend, and this is the third time now, the Minister of Employment and Immigration said in Saskatoon:

The country's unemployed will get some welcome news in the next Throne Speech. Roberts told an employment seminar the speech will outline new employment initiatives concentrating mostly on young people who need experience to get jobs.

When are we going to get these initiatives? Why can we not get them now? When we do get them, will these young people be hired now, or will we have to await commencement of the next fiscal year?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member's quotation indicated the announcement would be made in the Throne Speech. As the House knows, we have been hoping to start this new session, and we have been saying that for at least six months.

**Mr. McDermid:** Four years.

**Mr. Trudeau:** As soon as the Opposition gets its act together and passes the Crow and the Government Organization Act—

**Mr. McDermid:** What a phony.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition that he talked about civility in this House and he was distressed not to see it on this side. Perhaps he could look at his own side.

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

## REQUEST FOR EARLY INTRODUCTION OF INITIATIVES

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, there are one in five young people unemployed today, a total of 566,000, who are told by this Government they have to wait for the Speech from the Throne. Given the fact that

youth unemployment has been hovering around 20 per cent for about six months, why can the Government not act for these young people, and act now? The Prime Minister knows this House is prepared to set aside its business to hear whatever new programs the Government has to put in place for young people, and to hear them now.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, that is the trouble with the Hon. Member's Party. It wants to set aside the business, which is the Crow, business which will cause investment in Canada of some \$33 billion over the next four years. This is a lot of jobs. Instead of setting aside the business, why does it not deal with the business at hand rather than hiding behind the curtains?

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## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## INELIGIBILITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Over the course of the last two or three weeks he and I have been looking at the problem of people who are unemployed and are not eligible for unemployment insurance. Given that the federal Department of Employment and Immigration estimates that over 2,300 inshore fishermen and seasonal plant workers in Newfoundland will not be eligible for unemployment insurance this year because they have not worked a sufficient number of weeks to qualify, what does he suggest they should do?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, we have already had this question in the House, I think, twice. Perhaps the Hon. Member missed the response. I indicated I had been discussing with my officials special efforts which might be made to respond to this problem. There are a variety of things that could be done and we are examining them, as I indicated to the House a couple of weeks ago. It has been difficult for us to decide on a course of action until the fishing season was at an end so we could see what was the full extent of the problem.

## PLIGHT OF PEOPLE WITHOUT BENEFITS

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, if the Minister wants to answer for the Minister of Finance, that is fine.

When the Minister develops his program for dealing with the problems of these inshore fishermen and plant workers, will he offer the same kind of programs to all the other people in Canada who do not now qualify for unemployment insurance, who cannot find employment, and who are faced today with an inability to meet their basic financial commitments and requirements, and have been forced onto welfare by the Government's inaction?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, one of the possible approaches to take