

*Inquiries of the Ministry***ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

REASONS FOR DROP IN LABOUR FORCE GROWTH—  
MEASURES TO STIMULATE INVESTMENT BY INDUSTRY  
TO CREATE JOBS—GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES FOR 1972

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance arising from the drop in the labour force between January and February, the largest reported in the history of Statistics Canada. Is the minister commissioning any inquiry into the reasons for this? For example, is he having any study made to see whether this may have been partially caused by the new tax laws that have gone into effect?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** I do not accept that suggestion, Mr. Speaker. The figures speak for themselves. I derive some encouragement from the latest figures, but that is small comfort for those men and women seeking work. As I have suggested to the House earlier, statistics are no substitute for the human problems of unemployment.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I quite agree but I wondered whether the minister might make some inquiries as to the cause for the drop in the work force.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** What did you do with Rock today?

**Mr. Stanfield:** In view of the fact that the increase in employment recorded between January and February is about average, and despite the fact that the local initiatives program presumably created some thousands of temporary jobs during that period, is the minister considering any measures to stimulate the rate of investment by industry in Canada, thereby creating jobs? I ask this particularly in view of the fact the government's own surveys show that investment intentions and commitments in industry are only about as high in 1972 as they were in 1971.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, any measures taken by the government will be announced at an appropriate time. I believe these figures reflect a deep human problem and should not be a statistical game played in the House of Commons once a month.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I could not agree more with the minister, Mr. Speaker, but in regard to the latter statement I should like to ask whether he can inform the House when he will be presenting a budget? Can he also assure us that when he presents it he will at that time indicate his goals and objectives for the year 1972 with regard to economic growth and lowering the rate of unemployment?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, at the moment I cannot tell the hon. member if or when there will be a budget.

[Mr. Bell.]

PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR PERSONS RECEIVING  
MANPOWER TRAINING AND THOSE NOW EMPLOYED  
UNDER LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, like the Minister of Finance I am very happy to see the down curve in unemployment and I hope it will continue in future months as well. I want to ask the Minister of Finance the following question. Since there are now, I am informed, over 100,000 men and women under manpower training—in school, as it were—and some tens of thousands of people employed under LIP temporarily and as that program expires on May 31, may I ask the minister whether the government is now giving consideration to programs following May 31 to make sure that the people who are now being trained and those now employed under LIP will have jobs to go to?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I will certainly give consideration to that suggestion. The objective of this government is to ensure, so far as we can, that the economy is reflected, in human terms, in jobs.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member for Richmond rising on a supplementary?

**Mr. Beaudoin:** No, Mr. Speaker.

UNEMPLOYMENT—MEASURES TO ASSURE STEADY WORK  
FOR PEOPLE OF QUEBEC

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question to the minister.

Since the province of Quebec has an unemployment rate of over 7 per cent at the present time and the Quebec people are concerned about the employment situation, due to the fact that except for the local initiatives program no other measure has been taken to provide regular employment to Quebec workers; can the minister tell us, to give hope to the unemployed in Quebec, that they will have a regular job after the implementation of this program—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this is a question that the minister would normally answer on motions by making a general statement. The minister might want to answer something along this line.

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker, could I explain my question?

I repeat it, in view of the fact that in Quebec the unemployment rate is 7.7 per cent, what does the Minister of Finance intend to do to offer an alternative to the unemployed who will find themselves on the labour market—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is repeating his question of a moment ago. I suggest to him to ask it only to the extent that he is inviting the minister to make a statement on motions.