

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question is very general. If it is a question of law, the hon. member should know that the statute stands by itself, and that statements made in the House or outside the House, if not incorporated into the law, are not binding on the House.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is why civil servants are receiving such bad treatment.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMYUNEMPLOYMENT—PROVISION OF WINTER
PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of economic forecasts that unemployment is likely to get worse rather than better in the coming months, and in view of the hardship which it is already inflicting on many hundreds of thousands of Canadians, is the government holding any consultations with the provinces, and through them with the municipalities, with regard to any kind of winter works program or public works program which will provide some additional employment during the next year?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are not reviving the antiquated methods recommended by the leader of the New Democratic Party, but there have been a whole host of measures taken over the past year and indeed in recent months. There have been several announcements made by various ministers, and I could send the hon. member a list if he wants one.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since most of the unemployed will not be very fully satisfied or their hunger assuaged by lists, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government intends to announce any specific undertakings, intends to increase the money available for housing or intends to enter into any negotiations with provincial governments regarding winter works programs, antiquated or modernized? Has the government any programs to announce at this time to tell the people of Canada that it really is coping with the unemployment situation?

Mr. Trudeau: Just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, we did announce an extra \$100 million for housing. If the hon. member had been reading the papers instead of his own speeches he would have known about that.

[Mr. Skoberg.]

DATE OF REVIEW BY MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is not exactly a reassurance to us that the Prime Minister is so pleased today with the result of his economic policy, but may I ask the Minister of Finance whether he can give us the date when he proposes to make the extensive review of the economy which he has promised?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would hope to be speaking during the throne speech debate at the first decent opportunity.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister of Finance speaks during the throne speech debate will he outline to the House of Commons and to the people of Canada the specific steps that the government intends to take to revive the economy which, as the Dominion Bureau of Statistics states, is now at a standstill?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I will go further than that: I will also indicate the steps that the government has taken and the steps that we plan to take in the near future in order to keep the economy moving forward strongly.

MEASURES TO PREVENT BANKRUPTCIES

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the numerous bankruptcies across the country as announced recently by the federal Bureau of Statistics, does the minister consider them cause for concern to the government and is he doing something to prevent more bankruptcies in the future?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is inviting the minister to express an opinion and I do not think the question is acceptable in those terms.

[Translation]

AGRICULTUREEFFECT OF DAIRY POLICY—IMPROVEMENT OF
PRODUCERS' POSITION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister of Agriculture feels a little neglected today, so I would like to address a very important question to him.