

*Oral Questions*

difficult than that of some of the Atlantic Provinces concerned.

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**MINES AND MINING**

## UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRY

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Mines. I want first to congratulate him on his appointment to this important portfolio. I know that he has been briefed by his Department officials and by his colleagues. Possibly he would like to take this opportunity to tell the House what fresh ideas or new initiatives he will bring to his portfolio in terms of direction to alleviate the serious situation in which the industry finds itself, where tens of thousands of Canadians are under-employed because the industry is only working at 50 per cent capacity.

**Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of State (Mines)):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his congratulations and for his question. I certainly intend to give my undivided attention to this important portfolio. There is some recovery. The prospects are not absolutely brilliant, but recovery is under way. With regard to certain minerals, the prospects are good.

I will want to work with both the companies and the unions in devising policies for the Government of Canada in the future. There are a series of negotiated agreements being considered with the provinces. Already I have met with some provincial Ministers, and I intend to meet with others. Over the next year we will certainly be working hard to make the mining industry in Canada as productive as possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before granting a supplementary, the Chair would point out that it is almost impossible to answer a very broad general question of this nature within Question Period. Will the Hon. Member be specific in his supplementary?

**Mr. Oberle:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a very specific question, but the Minister is new and I wanted to give him an opportunity to be as broad as possible.

## PROPOSALS MADE TO MINISTER'S COLLEAGUES

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, tying in to an answer we just received from the Minister of Finance, has the Minister made any specific proposals to his colleagues that could be reflected in the Budget that will be coming forward next month?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair has misgivings about a question of this nature, as to what has been proposed by one Minister to colleagues within the framework of Cabinet. Bearing in mind there are a number of Members on this side seeking to be recognized, the Chair is trying hard to apportion time as best it can. The Hon. Member for Dauphin-Swan River.

**MULTICULTURALISM**

## MEDIA PORTRAYAL OF VISIBLE MINORITIES

**Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. What action does he plan to take considering the fact that his commissioned study, which was the subject of a press conference in Winnipeg this week, has been criticized for not having recommended affirmative action in the media's portrayal of visible minorities? How concerned is the Minister with the quote by Don Ferguson, the CBC regional director, that "Networks would be courting financial disaster if their programming was so regulated"?

**Hon. D. M. Collette (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)):** Mr. Speaker, the study in question was not commissioned by the Ministry of State for Multiculturalism. It was a grant given to a professor at the University of Winnipeg last year. He released the result, as he was able to do and was appropriate to do, this week, but it had no official sanction of the Department of Multiculturalism. With respect to the second part of the question, it is inappropriate for me to comment, given the fact that a parliamentary committee is now preparing its report on this very sensitive subject.

## USE OF VISIBLE MINORITIES IN ADVERTISING COMMERCIALS

**Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister's Department has had a marketing study. This is in conjunction with both the multiculturalism directorate and the advertising advisory board. The study found that there is no difference in attitudes of whites and non-whites toward commercials that may be attributed to the presence of visible minorities.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Will the Hon. Member please ask his question?

**Mr. Lewycky:** In the light of that study and the comment by the CBC regional director in Winnipeg, does the Minister share the viewpoint that advertisers will not buy commercial spots—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member for Gaspé.

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[Translation]

**DISASTERS**

## SNOW STORM—FINANCIAL AID TO GASPÉ REGION

**Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council.

On December 12, I asked him about the possibility of the Government of Canada providing assistance in eastern Canada, more specifically in the Gaspé Peninsula, to disaster victims who suffered losses as a result of the storm on December 7.