

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is a question which should be asked and answered in the committee, not here.

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### MANPOWER

#### REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT CANADIANS ARE SPOILED ROTTEN

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the financial spokesman for the Conservative Party should think about a bill before he votes for it at second reading.

**Mr. Alexander:** Just get on with your question.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Yesterday when it was revealed that more Canadians are unemployed now than at any time since the great depression there were attributed to the minister some totally insensitive comments which I would like him to have the opportunity to clarify. He was quoted as saying that Canadians are "spoiled rotten," they are "living too high off the hog" and, presumably as a consequence of this, they "need a kick in the gut." I would like the minister to inform the House if those are accurate quotations.

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I have received an apology from the newspaper which printed that. The newspaper indicated it was wrong. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation apologized this morning. I intend to raise a question of privilege on this particular statement because a false impression has been enunciated not only in newspapers and on radio but it has also been spread across the country by the hon. member, who had the gall to say he checked to confirm that this particular expression had been used. However, he did not bother to check the context, and I will be raising a question of privilege on that.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** Before the minister raises a question of privilege I suggest he check the facts carefully.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hees:** They are behaving like hoodlums.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, the reason for my question—and I did not get a clear answer from the minister—is that I understand he has denied saying that Canadians need a kick in the gut. However, my understanding is that he did not retract his statement that Canadians are spoiled rotten and that they are living too high off the hog. That is why I asked him the question, and I would like him to clarify the record. Did he or did he not say that Canadians are spoiled rotten and are living too high off the hog?

### Oral Questions

● (1427)

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, I am not going to aid and abet the hon. member in spreading any false rumours. I am going to put everything in context which the hon. member has refused to do and I will do it on a question of privilege.

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[Translation]

### FINANCE

#### POSSIBILITY BANK OF CANADA WOULD PRINT MONEY FOR INDEPENDENT QUEBEC

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

During his visit in Frankfurt those last few days, the Quebec Minister of Finance, who thinks of himself as a demigod, is reported as having said this, and I quote:

If Canada were to refuse a monetary union with Quebec, we would establish a Quebec currency.

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if in such conditions he would accept that the Bank of Canada print the Quebec currency, as it has done for other foreign currencies.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have much comment to make in that regard except that I know that many people now buying Quebec bonds on the market insist that it be made clear on the bonds that they will be redeemed in Canadian dollars.

#### REQUEST BANK OF CANADA ISSUE MONEY TO FINANCE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Finance, the premiers of every province and the Prime Minister of Canada would agree that the problem we now have in Canada, that is the lack of understanding between the federal government and the province of Quebec, depends mainly on our economic problems; as the creation of money is the work of man, why does the Minister of Finance not recommend to the Bank of Canada that it grant new credits to the federal government, in agreement with the provinces, in order to develop or finance new public services for municipalities and school boards, and that, with a view to alleviating unemployment and creating new jobs?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, our monetary policy is public knowledge in Canada; it was set by the governor of the Bank of Canada and I do not intend to ask him to change his policy.

#### REASON INTEREST RATES ARE SO HIGH

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary. Could the Minister of Finance say why we have to buy money at high interest rates the moment it is created, particularly with a stroke of the pen?