Oral Questions

• (1430)

OBJECTION TO INTERVENTION BY OUTSIDE FORCES

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister, who has expressed interest in North-South problems and especially the problems of the emerging world. The Prime Minister knows very well that there are progressive forces at work in the Caribbean. Indeed, the leader of the movement in El Salvador is a social democrat working with Catholic workers in opposition to what can only be described as a fascist, vicious junta. Given the expressed public opposition of the Prime Minister to such repressive regimes, why does he not join the Presidents of Mexico and Venezuela in urging the Americans and all other people who are intervening from outside to get out of that country and to mind their own business?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, in his last words the hon. member has really reiterated the policy of the government. We do not think there should be outside intervention in that area but, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs just pointed out, there is intervention not only on the side of what the hon. member describes as fascist forces but also on the side of what he describes as progressive forces. There are arms going to both sides, and if the hon. member wants to be evenhanded, he should condemn not only the United States but also those who bring in arms to the other side.

Mr. Broadbent: I said that.

Mr. Trudeau: If the hon, member is saying that, he is repeating the position of this government.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

QUERY RESPECTING RECOMMENDATIONS AND INCENTIVES

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. Our youth suffer much more than their share of unemployment. Over 500,000 young Canadians are out of work today. Is the Minister of Finance so desperate for solutions to the problem that all he can offer the young people of Canada is to lower their hopes and expectations?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, absolutely not. The Tory party is the source of that despair in the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McDermid: Madam Speaker, it is very obvious to the Canadian people that the Minister of Finance has been living in a cave and is not tuned in to the youth of Canada. I will ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Finance.

Instead of handing out grants and goodies in a shotgun approach, which is not working—and statistics show that will the minister not bring forward to this House specific recommendations and ideas so that through incentives the private sector can hire young unemployed Canadians?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, yesterday I spoke in the debate in the House and attempted to set forward the views the government holds with respect to the general growth of the economy. I believe that is the way we provide for a growing labour force, including the youth of the country. What was notable yesterday was that while I put forward a large number of ideas, I did not receive any from the spokesmen of the hon. member's party during the debate.

Mr. Taylor: You weren't here to hear them. Where were you?

ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who will know that from January of last year until January of this year employment among young Canadians declined by 4,000. Why has the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce supported policies which have cost young Canadians jobs? What specific action is he prepared to take to ensure that the young Canadians about to graduate from post-secondary educational institutions do not find that their first experience with the labour force is to be told that their skills are not needed in Canada?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, we are building and putting in place policies based on the foundation of the budget of the Minister of Finance, which is designed to provide growing opportunities for our young people. I think these policies will have that effect in a way which will promote the wellbeing of young Canadians and Canadians generally.

Mr. Beatty: Madam Speaker, the minister has just achieved a new platitude of achievement.

In view of the fact that in Canada's manufacturing sector year over year January to January there was zero growth in employment in Canada, when will the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce take the responsibility for this area which falls under his jurisdiction and introduce policies which will get the private sector growing again?

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, we have been introducing policies which are achieving—and will increasingly achieve—just that effect. The electronics development program is one example, with major incentives to help this high technology industry increase and advance the program to bring about increased employment through rationalization of a segment of the heavy construction industry. The front end loader program is another range in which 1,200 jobs are involved.

An hon. Member: Front end loading.