

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker, in the statement by the minister correcting an answer he gave to a question asked by the hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton earlier this week he referred to census workers and their place on the unemployment rolls. He has now referred to Information Canada, to Statistics Canada and to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. What is he talking about? I do not know about Statistics Canada at all.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is certainly not a question of privilege. It may be a matter for debate but I really do not see how the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate can suggest his parliamentary privileges have been affected by the statement of the minister.

**Mr. Hees:** I know what it is; it is the old "Martin" Bureau of Statistics.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES UNEMPLOYMENT—ACCEPTANCE OF  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact there has been no appreciable change in the figures for the Atlantic provinces, especially if you take into account the fact that the census takers are not included, is the government now prepared to accept the recommendations of the Atlantic Development Council for a new plan of strategy regarding development of the Atlantic provinces?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think this matter is being considered by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether this matter was discussed with the Atlantic province premiers at Victoria and whether the government has taken a decision in respect of the recommendations of the Atlantic Development Council?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have no direct knowledge of what went on at Victoria. I expect the Prime Minister will be back soon and he can answer these questions.

UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATE OVER LAST 12 MONTHS

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment has now been 6 per cent or over for 12 consecutive months, does this mean the government accepts this is a figure which it cannot get below?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** No, Mr. Speaker.

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

INCLUSION OF PERSONS TAKING RETRAINING IN  
UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance a supplementary question.

Does the number of unemployed include people engaged in retraining and technical courses financed by the federal government?

[English]

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** As I recall the situation, Mr. Speaker, these people are not included in the labour force.

[Translation]

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put to the Minister of Finance a supplementary question that is clear and precise.

Are these persons included in the number of unemployed workers?

[English]

**Mr. Benson:** As I recall, Mr. Speaker, and this is subject to correction, they are not included either as employed or unemployed.

UNEMPLOYMENT—PRIOR RELEASE OF MAY STATISTICS TO  
MINISTER OF FINANCE FOR PREPARATION OF BUDGET

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he was in possession of the unemployment figures which were released today before the compilation and preparation of his final budget?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** I received the figures this morning, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Which budget?

**Mr. Lundrigan:** May I ask the minister whether he can give the House the assurance that the realities of the economic situation in Canada, namely, the 6.3 per cent unemployment on a seasonally adjusted basis, will still be the basis for the final budgetary statement and not the bloat and gloat attitude we have had exemplified here today?

**Mr. Benson:** By whom? By you?

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INDUSTRY

CONTINUATION OF CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT  
IN PRESENT FORM

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the concern in the auto parts industry about the future of the Canada-United States auto agreement, has he received any assurances from his counterpart in the United States that the auto pact will be continued in its present form over an extended period of time?