

cessor, the hon. member for Yukon, are asking what the government's thoughts are on these various aspects of policy. I have just been handed a quote from their leader, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, who in an interview given to *La Presse* on May 4 said, "We did look for a solution other than that of the government but we do not have an alternative. Today I do not have a better solution." So I can understand the member for Yukon.

Mr. Clark: Read the whole article, read on. Have the guts to read the whole article.

Mr. Nielsen: Have the honesty; read on.

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● (1420)

HOUSING

REQUEST THAT NEW PROGRAM BE INTRODUCED

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, we have been saying for some time that neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives have alternative solutions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: My question for the Prime Minister concerns both the shortage of housing in Canada and the need for jobs. In each of the past three years we have built many fewer houses than we have actually needed in our country. Today we learned from the housing industry that in 1982 once again there will be 100,000 fewer houses built than we need as a nation. At the same time today we learned that there are 31,000 unemployed in the logging industry and that 143,000 construction workers are out of work.

Given the basic needs of Canadians for both shelter and jobs, will the Prime Minister assure us that the measures the government will be bringing in soon will include among them a serious housing program to get under way this summer?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I can only tell the hon. member that I will give serious consideration to his suggestion.

REQUEST FOR REALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the answer the Prime Minister has given, but I would like to get a little more specific clarification from him on this matter.

In its budget the government allocated billions of dollars for megaprojects in the resource sector. As we all know, many of them have now collapsed. One of these was the Alsands project which included, in terms of dollar allocation this year, \$1 billion. This \$1 billion would have created only 5,000 construction jobs. There is a means, without increasing the deficit at all in terms of what the government was planning to spend, to use this in housing. If we used half of this in housing, for example,

we would stimulate the production of an additional 50,000 housing units and, in addition, create more than 60,000 jobs. Will the Prime Minister give us more assurances that the government will simply reallocate these funds, which it already had planned to use, to produce the jobs and homes Canadians need?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the suggestion might be worthy of consideration if there had been some funds allocated for the purpose the hon. member suggests in the case of Alsands, but if he recalls the agreement which had been reached between the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Alberta government, it was in the form of a guarantee of loans, a guarantee against tax liabilities. In that sense the hon. member is asking that we take half of the cash amount when there was no cash amount at all.

Mr. Broadbent: My information on the financing of that for this year is different from the Prime Minister's interpretation, but I will set that aside for a minute and go back to the general housing situation and the capital expenditure program of the government.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT ACT TO STIMULATE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, considering that the thousands of construction workers I have just talked about, and those in the lumber business who are out of work, are collecting unemployment insurance or collecting welfare, which are drains from the Treasury, instead of paying the taxes they would be paying if they were employed, and considering that we have a genuine and serious need for housing, does it not make immense social and economic sense to stimulate economic activity in this sector of the economy, which would not be inflationary?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, as I just said, I understand the hon. member is making a representation on what the government should consider for inclusion in its economic statement. I take the representation as such, and I will consider it.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Madam Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of a delegation of parliamentarians from the Republic of Germany which is headed by Mr. Peter Schmidhuber, the State Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs of Bavaria.