

I have is that this review on the procedural matter is not of importance in the establishment of the rate itself. I think my hon. friend will have to wait for an announcement, which will come one day, on our own western initiative. It might provide possibilities for making savings on the transportation system as a whole that would be of importance to the crushing industry.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### BRANDT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton South):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. This week, when he met members of the Brandt Commission in Ottawa, did he give support or a commitment by the Government concerning the principal proposal emanating from the Ottawa meeting of the Commission, namely, that a world conference on international financial institutions should be held with a view to enlarging the facilities thereof, in order to meet the mounting world crisis of debt?

Did the Prime Minister consider a commitment to the publication of a strategy for international economic co-operation, bearing in mind that the last such strategy of the Canadian Government for 1975-80 has expired and we are left with no published sense of direction of where Canada is going on this issue?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to the meetings that I had with members of the Brandt Commission and several of its special advisers, as well as other guests. I want to tell him that no specific representations were made to me on behalf of the Commission at that luncheon, which was at a very large round table. We had discussions on many subjects relating to North-South but I was not asked to provide, on behalf of the Government, any answers to any specific recommendations which they would presumably be making in a statement some time next week, perhaps, which would eventually be published in six or eight weeks.

At the time I met with them they had not finished drafting their position paper and therefore did not ask me anything specific such as the Hon. Member has mentioned.

### APPOINTMENT OF CIDA PRESIDENT

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton South):** Madam Speaker, perhaps the Prime Minister could turn to the second part of my question on the need for a published strategy on international development co-operation. The lead agency, namely CIDA, has been without a president for some seven weeks, Mr. Marcel Massé having been moved from that position. Can the Prime Minister indicate the reason for such a lengthy delay? What criteria is he employing in looking for a new president of CIDA, bearing in mind that it is passing through the most crucial period in its entire history, at a time when the human

## Oral Questions

need is greater than ever before, and the resources of Canada are more constrained than ever before?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the criteria would be to find the person best able to deal with the problems which the Hon. Member refers to, although he seems to have put into his question some allegation about Canada's role and participation which are unfounded.

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## LABOUR CONDITIONS

### REQUEST FOR ACTION TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, since it concerns Government priorities. As he will be aware by now, welfare rolls in the country have mushroomed. In British Columbia one in every 13 people will be on welfare before the end of the winter. In Quebec welfare cases are growing at twice the rate of the rest of the country. In cities across Canada welfare cases are increasing. In Winnipeg, there has been an increase in cases of 131 per cent above last year. We now have soup kitchens. The Government's programs to date have had about the impact of a wet noodle.

● (1450)

When will the Prime Minister be prepared to take some action that will put people back to work instead of forcing them onto welfare, in light of the Prime Minister's own acknowledgement at the Liberal Convention of November 5 of the need for a public works program right across the country?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, if the Hon. Member's concern with the question is other than purely rhetorical, he will know that the Minister of Finance is meeting this day with the Ministers of Finance of the Provinces to discuss the very serious unemployment problem that we have.

### PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James):** Madam Speaker, I am very much aware that the Minister of Finance is meeting with his counterparts from the provinces. What I want to know is where the federal Government stands. Going into these federal-provincial meetings, top federal officials have acknowledged that the economy can now afford a full scheme of public works. Why will the Prime Minister not implement his promise to the Liberal Convention of a public works program to rebuild the infrastructure in communities right across the country so that people can work rather than live off welfare?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, since the statement made by the Minister of Finance in late October, our Ministers have been meeting with provincial counterparts precisely to discuss ways in which we could