

*Oral Questions*  
**EMPLOYMENT**

JOB CREATION—COMPARISON WITH UNITED STATES

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish the Minister would tell the House where he is finding these new jobs. The figures we have indicate to us that there has been zero growth in employment. There has been virtually no change in employment in Canada in the last three months, indeed since last September, unless a thousand new jobs constitute growth in the Minister's estimation. In the U.S. over the same period employment increased by 1.4 per cent, or 1,461,000 new jobs. The fact is that our job rate is now growing. Indeed, in terms of the recession, we continue to fall behind, whereas the position in the United States is a net increase.

● (1120)

Does the Minister still stand behind the ridiculous statement he made in the House yesterday wherein he said that Canada has been creating jobs faster than the United States? The facts do not support that statement.

**Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, on that last point, it depends of course on which period the Hon. Member opposite wants to discuss. I indicated the period I was talking about. He may want to indicate what period he is talking about.

**Mr. McGrath:** I am talking about the last quarter.

**Mr. MacLaren:** With regard to job creation in Canada, I am surprised the Hon. Member opposite does not realize that employment grew 0.2 per cent in April. That represents an increase of 25,000 jobs. Is the Hon. Member opposite suggesting that 25,000 jobs are 1,000 jobs? If so, his arithmetic seems a little at variance with the facts. We have created additional jobs in Canada. For example, adult male employment increased .5 per cent, or 27,000 new jobs.

The Hon. Member opposite should get his statistics right before he makes his usual doom and gloom allegations, which seem to be the stock-in-trade of his Party every time it discusses the economy. The fact is that we have created a lot of new jobs in Canada. We have also given the opportunity to new people to join the work force through our training programs, and through direct stimulus in public works projects, in conservation projects, and in a whole range of other directly funded programs. We have also done much to stimulate—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Again the Chair is concerned about the length of answers.

**Mr. McGrath:** The Minister does not live in the real world because there are still 300,000 jobs less in the country today than when the recession started. That is the fact. They are ahead in the United States.

REQUEST FOR NEW MEASURES

**Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Given the very serious economic indicators, for example escalating interest rates which will have an impact upon consumer demand, and given the unemployment figures today showing virtually no change in the unemployment situation—indeed, in terms of youth unemployment the situation is getting worse—what new steps does the Government intend to take in terms of direct job creation, and in terms of stimulation of the private sector, to offset the disastrous consequences of a Budget which seems to be blind to the facts?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman's real world is the world in his mind, which is often not very related to the facts of the situation other than those he has selectively chosen. Just to refer to his previous comments, in fact there has been an increase of 260,000 jobs in Canada over the past year, April to April, and that amounts to an increase in employment of 2.5 per cent. Those are the facts.

The Hon. Member may not have realized that earlier this week we indeed announced another \$130 million worth of projects which were forecast by my colleague, the Minister of Finance—

**Mr. McGrath:** It took you three months to do it.

**Mr. Roberts:** —in a variety of projects directly related to creating jobs for young people. As he knows, or should know, this is one of the key areas of concern. The Government has been acting in a general way by creating a context which enables the private sector to create economic growth and jobs. As my colleague, the Minister of State for Finance indicated, there are a variety of special programs, such as the Youth Employment Programs and the Special Recovery Capital Projects Programs which are assisting in the creation of jobs over the short term.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, who has turned to statistics. Would he indicate to the House whether it is correct that there are fewer Canadians working today than there were in June, 1981? Level with the House.

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will level with the House. I can understand why the hon. gentleman does not want to use statistics. The reason is that the statistics do not bear out the case which he is trying to present falsely. I just gave him the facts. If he had been listening to the previous answer, he would know that there has been an increase in jobs of 260,000 over the past year.

**Mr. Stevens:** What about June, 1981?