

Oral Questions

waters. They would have some reference therefore to the project even as they stand. I will be looking with my colleague, the Minister of the Environment, at the question as to whether some broader terms of reference are required under the circumstances.

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MANPOWER**REQUEST FOR TABLING OF FORECASTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS IN PROVINCES**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of misery, formally known as the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Will he confirm that his department has forecast a monthly increase of 200,000 in the average number of UIC beneficiaries in the next two years directly related to the department's forecasts of higher unemployment in Canada over the same period? Will he also confirm that more than 2.6 million individuals will draw benefits annually over the same period of time, according to a forecast done by his department? Will he now agree, as I asked last week, that these forecasts on the employment situation should be tabled and made available to all members of this House and the public?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, off the top of my head I would not want to confirm or otherwise the figures the hon. member has indicated. Perhaps if a question were placed on the order paper we could deal with it in more detail and with more accuracy.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**ESTIMATE OF INCREASED COST—REASON FOR PAYING BENEFITS RATHER THAN CREATING JOBS**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister related questions last week to which he gave the same kind of phony answer. Two days later he indicated that the figures were accurate. I suggest he knows he has these figures. Instead of waiting for a question on the order paper, he should pay a courtesy to the members of this House and produce the figures. While checking into that, will the minister also confirm that during the same fiscal years his department has estimated there will be an increase in the cost of UIC programs to a level of about \$4 billion in total expenditures for running the UIC program. Will he confirm that is the case? Also, will he explain to the House why his department would rather spend money on UIC payouts instead of creating the jobs Canadians want?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows we want to make positive use of the UIC fund. The bill presently before the committee makes proposals to do precisely that. In so far as

[Mr. Lang.]

the other figures are concerned, I am not prepared to guess at the accuracy or otherwise of what the hon. member is quoting.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES ON ESTABLISHING A JOB CREATION PROGRAM**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my final supplementary to the Prime Minister. Given the alarming forecast in the cost increases of unemployment insurance payouts which the Manpower Department has done and the related forecast showing an alarming increase in the number of recipients, does the Prime Minister have an answer to the question I asked last week. It was related to Premier Schreyer's request for a first minister's meeting to be held sometime in June to prepare plans jointly between the provinces and the federal government in order to come up with some major job creation programs?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did give some consideration to this request by Premier Schreyer. Unless such a conference were preceded by a meeting either by the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Manpower or officials of those particular departments, it would be premature. The question is viewed urgently by all members of government. Cooperation is important and is forthcoming. However, I have not gathered from Premier Schreyer or anyone else that they have any major new initiatives to propose.

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[Translation]

PARLIAMENT HILL**REQUEST THAT MEMBER FOR VERDUN BE GIVEN PARKING SPOT**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

According to the CBC 10:30 newsbroadcast last night, the hon. member for Verdun has had serious parking problems on the Hill which explains why he was late coming into the House of Commons. As chief of the Liberal party, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether he has taken the necessary steps to ensure that his supporter will have the same benefit the others have for parking in a suitable space thus enabling him to be on time for the sittings of the House?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether this is a serious question or not, but it certainly is within the duties of the Speaker of the House rather than mine if it has to do with parking on Parliament Hill.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.