

*Oral Questions*

ment investment in job-creation programs at this time would not be desirable because of the impact such investment would have on the deficit. During the last election campaign the Prime Minister said that "dealing with the deficit must not be at the expense of lost jobs at a time when the economy is slowing down".

Considering that our current ratio of deficit to the gross national product is the same now as it was 12 years ago, how can he square his election promise that deficit concern would be subordinate to job creation with the government policy as expressed in the last two days in the House, which policy means, in effect, that no matter how many are unemployed in Canada, the government has no intention of creating some job investment programs which would put Canadians back to work?

**An hon. Member:** Oh, you'd be surprised.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Oshawa is falling into his usual habit of putting up straw men and then knocking them down.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I'm talking about one!

**Mr. Trudeau:** He is ascribing positions to the government which it never took, nor did the Minister of Finance, nor did I. Concerning the priority of not solving our problems on the backs of the workers, that election promise still stands. When the hon. member quotes us as saying that we will not invest in jobs, surely he is fabricating a statement—

**Mr. Broadbent:** Except that's not what the quotation was. Listen to the quotation.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, I will listen to the quotation. Let us hear it again.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member for St. John's West.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, let us hear the quotation.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Madam Speaker:** Order. I thought the Right Hon. Prime Minister had finished his answer.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crombie:** Same rules for everybody, eh?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I was in the process of indicating the moneys which we are and will be spending to create jobs. I was interrupted by the Leader of the New Democratic Party saying that, in some sense, he wanted to repeat the quotation. I was prepared to accede to him; but he does not want to take that opportunity. Let me tell him that—

**Mr. Broadbent:** Yes, I do!

**Mr. Trudeau:**—even in the budget, even in the white paper which we tabled at the time of the budget, even in the various speeches of the various ministers, we have indicated that

literally hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent of federal budget money in order to create jobs.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Just for western transportation alone, \$1,350 million will be spent.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Double-track!

**Mr. Trudeau:** To help rehabilitate the textile, clothing and shoe industries—

**Mr. Epp:** Out west?

**Mr. Trudeau:**—some \$350 million will be spent. To assist the pulp, paper and wood industry and rehabilitate the ship-building industry, some \$350 million will be spent.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** The figures can go on. I know that this is not the time to enumerate them. But how can the hon. member say that we are not spending any money to create jobs? This is pure invention of his twisted mind.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Madam Speaker:** On a further and brief supplementary, the hon. member for Oshawa.

## ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, just in case the Prime Minister is interested in the truth, and I want to quote him carefully, because I am quoting him accurately, and I hope he will reply to the substance of the question, during the last election campaign he said that "dealing with the deficit must not be at the expense of lost jobs at a time when the economy is slowing down". The Prime Minister is nodding affirmatively. He agrees with that quotation. The other day, in debate, in the House—

**Some hon. Members:** Question, question!

**Mr. Broadbent:**—the Prime Minister, and then the Minister of Finance, in response to questions, indicated that the current level of deficit was too high for more spending to take place in job creation.

My question to the Prime Minister is straightforward. Since he made this comment and promise in the 1980 election, and since it is clear, as the Minister of Finance indicated in his speech in Toronto on Monday, that unemployment is following from this—

**Madam Speaker:** Order. The hon. member will recognize that I permitted an additional question, but I asked him to be brief, and I would like him to be just that.