

Inquiries of the Ministry

UNEMPLOYMENT—PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE HARDSHIP OF THOSE OUT OF WORK MORE THAN SIX MONTHS

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): In view of the fact that statistics released today show that 106,000 Canadians, or approximately 25 per cent of the total number unemployed, have been seeking work for more than six months, can the Prime Minister say whether he is contemplating any special programs or legislative changes designed to work effectively with the provinces and municipalities in order to alleviate the tremendous hardship presently being experienced by these Canadians and their families?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I do not have the figures at my fingertips, but I believe the hon. member is referring to the hard-core unemployed and my understanding is that their number has decreased rather significantly in the past month.

Mr. Lundrigan: Further to that answer—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that we might go on to other hon. members who are seeking an opportunity to ask supplementaries on this subject.

Mr. Lundrigan: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a point of order.

Mr. Lundrigan: On a point of order, I did not ask for a statistical breakdown by the Prime Minister. I asked whether he had any programs designed to alleviate the hardship of the 106,000 Canadians who have been out of work for more than six months. Could he address his energy for a few seconds to that very important question?

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE—CURTAILMENT OF SUBSIDIES AND TAX CONCESSIONS TO FOREIGN-CONTROLLED RESOURCE INDUSTRIES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): In view of the unprecedented high level of unemployment these past weeks, can the Prime Minister say whether or not the government will now move to curtail the large subsidies and tax concessions given to foreign resource industries?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The question might have been prefaced by a phrase which said exactly the contrary—in view of the unprecedentedly high number of people employed in the month of August, the highest ever. This just shows that statistics can be thrown out to prove exactly the contrary, one or the other.

Mr. Nystrom: May I ask, then, whether the government is contemplating any measures to stimulate manufacturing right here in this country and develop the processing of resources in Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: The minister responsible for industry has made several speeches on this subject—

An hon. Member: Speeches are not enough.

Mr. Trudeau:—and I am sure he will be glad to send copies to the hon. member to show the ways in which we do stimulate manufacturing industries.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Edmonton Centre and then I think, in fairness, call on the hon. member for Bellechasse.

UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF BRIEF OF MAYOR OF CORNWALL

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. Does the Prime Minister intend to table the brief on unemployment he received over the weekend from the mayor of Cornwall? I am sure it would be most helpful at this time.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I know the brief is a public document. If the hon. member is interested in having a copy I will see he gets one. It is a three or four page brief. I see no precedent for tabling it in the House but I am sure Mr. Speaker would not object if it were the unanimous desire of hon. members to have it tabled.

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• (2:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

TEXTILES—MEASURES TO CONTROL IMPORTATION AND DUMPING

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Since foreign competition is becoming increasingly keener in the sector of knitted texturized yarns, thus representing a serious threat to Canadian industries, will the government consider taking control measures with respect to these imports in order to protect Canadian industries?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we have a policy on textile products and a number of sectors of the textile industry have been assigned to the board up to this point. We had a report from the cotton yarn board which lead to decisions which I think were important. The government is currently studying a report submitted by the shirt board. I hope to be in a position to make announcements on this very shortly.

Sweaters are another matter, and acrylic fibers a fourth one, now under study. The Textile and Clothing Board is therefore very active and it issues recommendations quite regularly.

If the sector mentioned by my hon. friend is one of those which require referral to the Board, we shall act accordingly.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Since textile manufacturers who used to export to the United States are now trying to sell more in Canada and since that might amount to dumping, will the government take effective measures to prevent this?