

Oral Questions

need be. Would the Acting Prime Minister confirm whether or not this timetable is the main reason the government refuses to allow the House to debate this issue before the government makes a decision, or is it possible that the government will permit the House to debate this whole issue when all the reports are in and before a decision is made?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can give the hon. member an assurance that the government will give the House an opportunity to debate the matter before a decision is reached. As the hon. member may have noticed, I have put a motion on the order paper which is intended to provide for such debate as the occasion warrants it. It will be my intention to call that motion at a suitable time. For example, if further discussion is required on the Berger report, I could call it at a later point in the session if necessary, say following the NEB report. So the House will have an opportunity to debate the question on a number of occasions prior to any decision being taken by the government. I can give the hon. member that assurance without any conditions.

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[Translation]

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**POSSIBILITY OF CANCELLATION OF MOVING INCOME TAX DIVISION TO JONQUIÈRE**

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, since he is responsible for the federal services decentralization program.

A year ago, the minister announced that a tax data centre would be built in Jonquière, even though the Quebec government introduced its Bill number 1, which may affect the teaching language of the children of federal civil servants who will come to Quebec, and in spite of the statement made yesterday by the Quebec premier, who said he was fed up with federal ministers who act as terrorists. Does the minister see himself as one of those ministers and does he intend to change his decision regarding the building of that tax data centre in Jonquière?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I should be angry now because Mr. Lévesque has called me names. I think I will tell mommy. I feel it is absolutely ridiculous. Nevertheless, I do not intend to change the decision we have made. However, some other decentralizations will be proposed and I have told the Quebec government that if they cannot give the Anglophone civil servants who would have to settle in Quebec the guarantee that their children could attend English schools, we will not be able to decentralize in this province.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lévesque referred yesterday to the decentralization in Charlottetown, and again this morning I have contacted Premier Campbell of Prince Edward Island who told me that if Francophones were to be transferred to Charlottetown, French schools would be available for them. So I would like Mr. Lévesque to show the same

[Mr. Crosbie.]

generosity vis-à-vis the Anglophone civil servants who could have to settle in Quebec as Mr. Campbell is showing vis-à-vis the Francophones who could be transferred to Charlottetown.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**UNEMPLOYMENT—NEW PROGRAMS TO REDUCE LEVEL**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the Conference Board survey published today which shows that consumers are growing increasingly uncertain about the national economy and their belief that inflation will worsen in the next few months, and in view of the fact that the real economic growth declined in the final three months of 1976 and that unemployment rose to more than 8 per cent, is the government now giving consideration to new programs to reduce this disastrously high level of unemployment?

Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in general terms the answer was given yesterday to questions about possible changes in economic management policy. I have not seen the Conference Board report and I will certainly take a look at it.

POSSIBILITY GOVERNOR OF BANK OF CANADA EXPRESSING GOVERNMENT POLICY IN HALIFAX SPEECH

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was the Governor of the Bank of Canada, Mr. Bouey, expressing government policy when he said in a speech in Halifax recently that putting more money into the economy and increasing government expenditures to restore strong economic growth and high employment would only compound Canada's difficulties rather than resolve them?

Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Governor of the Bank of Canada speaks for himself and he certainly has the status to do that.

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DROUGHT**INQUIRY AS TO ARRANGEMENTS TO DEAL WITH SITUATION**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. On May 4 I brought up the question of drought conditions, particularly in the Palliser triangle. While there have been some rains since, they have done no more in the Palliser triangle area than postpone the seriousness of drought. I ask the minister whether or not any preliminary investigations have taken place and arrangements made as to the course to be followed if serious drought follows in the days ahead?