

back on pensions. The Government is simply reducing the rate of escalation of those pensions to 6 per cent and 5 per cent. If we do succeed in bringing inflation down to 6 per cent this year, it will mean that pensioners will be compensated for the rate of inflation.

This is why I think that the Bishops were misinformed when they attacked the six and five program in itself as a misguided attack on the economic evils. We have to bring inflation down. We are succeeding in bringing inflation down, and that will create jobs. This is the point that I was making. This is the only quarrel I have with the economics of the Bishops, and that was my point.

In so far as applying six and five in a rigid fashion across all levels of income receivers is concerned, I want to point out to the Hon. Member that my first proposal in February of last year was indeed to have caps on income which would be graduated according to the size of that income. I did not receive any support, either from the Provinces, from the NDP, or from the Bishops on that.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN PROMISE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, as everyone who has paid any attention to the Bill being debated before the House now, and during the past few days, knows, the Government has in fact broken a contract which it had with its own employees concerning pensions. I repeat that the Government is cutting back on something to which these pensioners were legally entitled.

The Prime Minister has virtually made a political career out of promising Canadians one thing and delivering another. In the 1980 election campaign the Prime Minister promised that he would not fight inflation on the backs of working Canadians. As the Bishops have pointed out, once again he has broken this promise. In light of the very serious moral concern expressed all across Canada about the issue of unemployment in terms of his remarks in the 1980 election about not fighting inflation on the backs of workers, in comparison with what he delivered, was he at that time simply lying to the people of Canada, or has his action since indicated that he simply does not care?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member, in his rhetoric, is perhaps being a bit immoral himself. He is quoting the Bishops as having pointed out that I broke an election promise. The Bishops have pointed out no such thing, and the Hon. Member is using—

Mr. Broadbent: I did not say that.

Mr. Trudeau: The Hon. Member did say that, and if he would stop chewing his gum he would realize it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

MINES AND MINING

LAY-OFFS IN WESTERN COAL INDUSTRY—DISCUSSION OF SALES TO JAPAN

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. During his sojourn to the Far East, the Canadian mining industry continued to deteriorate as a result of more cut-backs and shutdowns being announced in great numbers. Thousands have been laid off in the western Canadian coal industry, including an additional 1,900 workers at B.C. Coal's Balmer Mine, which was announced last week because of a declining demand for coal exports to Japan and other Pacific Rim countries.

What steps did the Prime Minister take in Japan to address this problem? Did he encourage the Japanese to speed the conversion of their electric power utility and cement plants to coal from oil-fired generators? Did he discuss the possibility of a joint Japanese-Canadian coal liquefaction plant in Canada similar to the commercial scale project planned for Australia under a joint agreement between that country and Japan? Just how much new coal did the Prime Minister sell while he was globe-trotting?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): A great deal, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Siddon: From the Prime Minister's evasive reply, it seems that the only aspects of his Japanese trip which were carefully planned were his secretive sojourns for sightseeing and sunning by the seashore with his son, Sacha.

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

FUTURE OF YUKON MINE

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, the lead and zinc industries of northern Canada and the iron ore industries of Labrador and Quebec supply much of their production to the Japanese and Pacific Rim countries. The continuing shutdown of the Cyprus-Anvil Mine in Faro, for example, has compelled the mine's former Japanese customers to seek new suppliers in other countries. No doubt their concern, as it is for all Yukoners, is that the Cyprus Mine will remain closed.

Madam Speaker: Order. That is two long questions. At least the second question should be short. We cannot complain about the length of the answer.

Mr. Siddon: I hope the answer will be at least half as long as the question. When the Prime Minister pledged Canada's "limitless" natural resources to Japan last week, did that include the assurance that the Dome Mine in Faro, Yukon, will be reopened immediately so that hundreds of anxious northerners can be put back to work?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Madam Speaker.