

Mr. Lundrigan: I would ask the minister if in fact we can conclude from his statement that the amendments to the unemployment insurance benefits, which were to be brought into effect some time later in 1971, not earlier than July, are being pushed forward so that people can qualify now, particularly the 84,000 hard-core unemployed who have been out of work for longer than six months and who cannot qualify under the old regulations?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I understand from the Government House Leader that he would like to bring the unemployment insurance legislation forward as soon as it is reasonably possible. We are, of course, having discussions with the provinces. I am sure the hon. member recognizes they have a very active interest in this subject, and we would want to have a plan that is generally acceptable throughout the country.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT IN QUEBEC—DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF MEASURES TO REDUCE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the very serious statement made yesterday by the Minister of Labour of Quebec that a revolution could occur in that province if unemployment grows larger, is the government considering meeting with the government of Quebec to consider what further steps can be taken in the very near future to reduce the number who are likely to be unemployed in Quebec in the next few months?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think I ought to repeat what the Prime Minister of Quebec himself said, that violence is not going to help to improve the climate for investment in the province of Quebec. I would hope conditions there will not develop in such a way as to discourage investment, which is the key to employment in that province. We are having discussions continually with the province of Quebec on the unemployment situation, and I can assure the hon. member that no one is more concerned than the federal government about dealing with this very serious problem.

[Translation]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Joliette on a supplementary?

Mr. La Salle: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wish to direct a question to the hon. Acting Prime Minister.

Since the premier of Quebec has formally recognized his inability to create 100,000 jobs and rejected part of the blame on the federal government, may I ask the

Inquiries of the Ministry

Acting Prime Minister whether he does intend to meet the premier of Quebec to discuss this matter?

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[English]

NATIONAL PARKS

BANFF—GRANTING OF FRANCHISE TO IMPERIAL OIL TO BUILD FACILITIES TO SERVE TOURISTS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, may I change the subject. My question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development concerns the tourist industry and the parks. Since the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has spent \$3 million in putting in water and sewer services for business enterprises serving about two million tourists who visit Banff and western Canada, would the minister please check into why the franchise for the building of various facilities for the tourists was given to Imperial Oil, a corporation that is 66 per cent foreign controlled, and at a spot other than the visitors' centre where the taxpayers' money has been spent to put in the facilities?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, there has been a development at Lake Louise, a beautiful spot in the Banff national park, and public tenders were called. Several companies submitted bids, but finally only those of Imperial Oil and a few other financial interests were kept. That is why the contract was awarded to them; in fact, they were the only tenderers.

[English]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, may I follow up that answer with a supplementary question. Would the minister be prepared to discuss this matter seriously with the citizens of that area and of Banff, who have served tourists for ten years, and ascertain why road and sewers were put in at a cost of \$3 million at a place where there are no enterprises and why the department is now giving a franchise to a foreign corporation over and above their rights?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making a suggestion to the minister. He must assume that it will be considered.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase my question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member could rephrase his supplementary question. After that, perhaps we could go to another subject.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, we have only been on the present subject for a few moments. Would the minister be prepared to make a full and clear statement on this subject on motions in the