

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Moreover, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the House that if this legislation is adopted, people will see that all middle and low income taxpayers are entitled to \$100 tax cuts for both January and February, which will increase the demand in this country, and if only I can find the time to work on the tax credit formula for companies which will hire new employees, I shall do so before Christmas. Mr. Speaker, I only hope that I shall be able to devote all my time to this, without having to remain in the House a couple of weeks more, just because the opposition will not adopt Bill C-11.

[English]

Mr. Clark: The minister—who for the second time refuses to answer my question—says that nobody believes the government. Of course, they do not believe this government. There is no reason why the business community or anyone else in the country should believe that the government will do anything to bring growth and direction back to the economy, particularly since the minister continues to refuse to tell us what is on the agenda of the House. My question—

Mr. Chrétien: I would advise the hon. member to be in the House at the time when I make my speech and not to abuse the rules of the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Sit down, you are not Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition could ask his final supplementary question.

Mr. Clark: First of all the Minister of Finance refuses to answer questions that are asked and then he tries to answer questions that are not asked. In refusing to tell us what business he has for the House of Commons—there is a great deal of shouting from across the floor. This government hopes it can shout down questions from the opposition. Well, they cannot.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDITS

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): The Minister of Finance has talked about employment tax credits. He has been talking about that for a long time now. Any normal Minister of Finance, whatever the pressures, would have been able to bring a bill before the House of Commons. Will the minister tell the House when he will be in a position to bring to parliament a specific proposal to embody that employment tax credit, when it will be before the House, and will we have it this month, as the Prime Minister promised?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): I will be able to come to the House with a statement seven days after Bill C-11 is passed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Chrétien.]

Mr. Clark: What I want to know from the Minister of Finance is if that bill regarding the investment tax credit is ready, can he bring it to the House of Commons today or tomorrow so that the people of the country who want to know what is in that measure will know exactly what the government is preparing, or will the minister admit that he does not know what to do in this matter?

● (1422)

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the opposition has known since March what was in the budget of the hon. member for Rosedale. Hon. members opposite have not as yet been able to make up their minds about it. I know exactly what will be in that bill, and I will make a statement in the House before Christmas, if Bill C-11 can be passed.

Mr. Clark: When will it be a bill? You have nothing to propose.

UNEMPLOYMENT—EFFECT OF INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance, who has indicated that as of March 31 certain budgetary measures were in place. One of those budgetary measures was an investment credit plan costing the government about \$485 million. The investment credit was a 5 per cent allowance to those corporations which chose to use that credit. Would the minister indicate to the House, now that it is over eight months since that March 31 announcement, to what extent he feels the credit has worked? To what extent has it been a stimulant? How many jobs does the minister feel have been created in Canada due to that \$485 million tax credit?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member thinks that credit is not good, he can vote against it in the Committee of the Whole this afternoon.

Mr. Paproski: Why don't you answer the question?

Mr. Clark: Chrétien never answers questions.

UNEMPLOYMENT—SUGGESTION INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT BE CONDITIONAL UPON JOB CREATION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the minister has not even attempted to indicate to the House to what extent the credit has worked for the jobless in this country. Speaking of the Committee of the Whole this afternoon and dealing with the investment credit to which I have referred, would the minister consider moving an amendment this afternoon to make it clear that those investment credits will be conditional upon job creation and for first decisions on future investment as far as corporations are concerned?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker—