

*Oral Questions***THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****SUGGESTION ELECTION WILL BE CALLED BEFORE BUDGET INTRODUCED**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the Minister of Finance for several days.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I have always had admiration for his veracity. I am beginning to wonder why, over and over again, he asserts certain things which he must know are not true.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The choral group over there is starting to hoot: that is the best contribution they can make. The minister pretends there is going to be a budget, or at least he suggests that possibility. I suggest that he and the Prime Minister have decided to hold the election in June, to have no budget, go to the country and pretend that we in the opposition denied them the opportunity of doing something for the Canadian economy which is in the worst mess it has been in for years.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased because of the compliment the right hon. member has paid to me: I thank him for that. Of course, I am the Minister of Finance and I operate in my own department. I am not in a position to decide the date of the election, and I am not influenced by that. I want to say to the right hon. member that I presented a budget, or economic statement, on October 20. I made provision for tax cuts amounting to \$3 billion, which came into effect January 1.

The right hon. member will know, because he has been prime minister, that before we move we want to know the effects of a tax cut. We want to know that before we prepare a budget. That is reasonable and it is something that everyone expects. I am sure the right hon. member does not want me to bring in a budget like the Ontario government's budget that increased taxes.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, any alibi is apparently good for this government. I suggest to the minister that after the pilgrimage to western Canada of 14 ministers, at the expense of the Canadian people, he has found out that the criticism is of the government—and he is ruining this country day by day and week by week.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of visiting Saskatchewan. I talked to a very non-partisan group, the Board of Trade of Saskatoon. I explained our economic problems and my faith in Canada. I am very proud to tell the right hon. member that his fellow Saskatchewaners gave me a standing ovation.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

[Mr. Speaker.]

**LABOUR RELATIONS****REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORP. AND UMW**

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour: it concerns recent meetings he held, together with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, with executive district 26 and some of us on the problem affecting the Prince mine.

Since there seems to be a strong conflict of opinion between the management of the Cape Breton Development Corporation and the district executive of the United Mine Workers, is the minister in a position to advise the House whether progress is being made between the parties regarding that mine, affecting several hundred men?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask a question along these lines. I have been in touch with both Devco and the union. They are holding meetings today and, hopefully, over the course of the next few days, in an effort to resolve on their own, without further governmental intervention, the problems that were identified with regard to employment of people in that mine.

I might again emphasize that Devco indicated, I believe in the hon. member's presence, that they had no intention of closing the mine. The problem they will endeavour to work out is the employment of people while they are trying to settle their problems with the mine.

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**NATIONAL SECURITY****CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP IN RETURN FOR UNDERTAKING RCMP INTELLIGENCE WORK**

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. How many persons have been recruited to work with or for the RCMP to perform dangerous, complex and important tasks in return for the assurance of Canadian citizenship as part of the remuneration for work and services performed?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand the purport of the hon. member's question. Indeed, I do not know to which area he wants to address his question or which area of the RCM Police he is asking about.

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**IMMIGRATION****DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON ACCEPTING IMMIGRANTS PERFORMING RCMP INTELLIGENCE WORK**

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, my question is perfectly clear. I will ask a supplementary of the