

• (1430)

I remind her that this government has helped in creating a climate that generated 1.6 million new jobs, the highest record of job creation of any country in the industrialized world. We have gone through a period of adjustment and retrenchment; we are going through that. As a matter of fact the Governor of the Bank of Canada today indicated in his speech the main point, and I quote: "What I wish to convey from this monetary policy perspective is that Canada is now much better placed to enjoy good economic"—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Yukon.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

When this government is optimistic, it predicts that one Canadian out of ten will be unemployed next year. The government has no economic recovery plan for the 1.5 million Canadians who are unemployed and the 2 million who are on welfare. An economic policy that ensures that the banks make billions of dollars of profits while children go hungry is a policy that does not work.

I would like to ask the minister when this government will help the real victims of the recession, the unemployed.

[*English*]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. leader of the New Democratic Party can help in this area as well. If we look at the September growth figures there was a decline of .1 per cent. I think everyone shares the view that if it had not been for the disruptive strikes that occurred we probably would have had positive growth in September.

The former premier of British Columbia should know that because of the strikes we lost a lot of grain deliveries. That certainly affected our export position and that affected our merchandise trade balance.

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance will not convince one Canadian that the poor management of this government is any excuse. Employee relations by this government are so bad that it was not even able to deal with its own employees. I want to say that is not the cause of the recession. The cause of

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the recession is government's policies. I want to say to the Minister of Finance that a recovery which does not put people back to work is not a recovery.

The Minister of Finance told us last week that in his budget consultations he was hearing that he was on the right track. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance to whom was he speaking? Was he just speaking to the bankers who made all those profits? How about speaking to those three million people who are out of work and on social assistance and asking for answers from that group of people? Has he spoken to them?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to answer that question.

I have heard it from anti-poverty groups, from the Paraplegic Association and from NAC, the National Action Committee. I have heard it from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. I have heard it from the retailers. I have heard it from the farmers. I have heard it literally from a cross-section.

An hon. member: What are you doing about it?

Mr. Mazankowski: What are we doing about it? The fact of the matter is that everyone knows we have a fiscal deficit problem we inherited from the previous administration that must be dealt with.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

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UKRAINE

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister.

We are pleased to recognize that the Prime Minister took the step this morning of recognizing the independence of Ukraine.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): I would like to ask the Prime Minister some questions to clarify the statement released by his office which says: "Canada will only open negotiations and will have to satisfy itself with respect to Ukraine's stated intentions on ensuring that nuclear weapons will remain under secure control that there will be compliance with existing arms control agreements" and so forth.