

Minister of Finance has done in an earlier budget but not in Monday's budget, how many new jobs the government expects to be created in the economy in 1975. Will the Prime Minister indicate the net increase in employment and how many new jobs will be created in the manufacturing field?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that is a question of a statistical nature which obviously I cannot answer now but I will look into the matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for York-Simcoe on a final supplementary.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, this question is also addressed to the Prime Minister. Based on the estimate of the Minister of Finance in his budget that UIC benefit payments will exceed \$3¼ billion and in view of committee evidence by Mr. Cousineau, the Chairman of the UIC, that 8 per cent unemployment would result in \$3.7 billion in benefit payments, would the Prime Minister indicate if it is correct to assume the government believes there will be unemployment in excess of 8 per cent for this fiscal year which would mean 8½ per cent to 9 per cent unemployment this coming winter.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is drawing some conclusions from figures. I suggest he has to take the responsibility for those conclusions.

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[Translation]

### HEALTH

#### REDUCTION OF FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN COST OF SERVICE—REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Since some provinces have already expressed their concern about the announcement by the government of a reduction in the cost-sharing of medical care insurance and that yesterday his counterpart in Quebec regretted the lack of prior consultations on that matter, I should like to ask the minister whether, in view of that concern and the absence of previous consultations, he intends to meet with his Quebec counterpart to reassure the province in that regard?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member said, the decisions announced by the Minister of Finance were part of the budget and it is almost impossible to have consultations on the budgetary measures.

Immediately after the budget speech I sent a telegram to my colleagues explaining the decision made and our intention to follow on the present negotiations and telling them that my deputy minister would meet the provincial deputy ministers as soon as possible to clarify this decision.

In so far as a ministers' meeting is concerned, one has been planned for the fall and I do not see any reason to delay it or make it earlier.

### Oral Questions

● (1430)

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

The Quebec counterpart of the minister said yesterday and I quote:

I mainly regret the ceiling imposed unilaterally and without notice and the fact that the evolution of the system is not possible on such short term.

In view of this statement is the minister prepared to revise this term?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, in so far as hospital insurance is concerned, we have a five-year period. Then, we have all the time needed to hammer out a new agreement on hospital insurance cost sharing. As to health insurance, there is no change for the present fiscal year. We are only talking about the financial year beginning the first of April next year. As I said earlier to the hon. member who asked a question on the same subject, the reduction proposed is only 2 per cent compared to this year's growth rate. So I do not see any reason that would prevent an adjustment to meet that objective without too many difficulties next year.

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[English]

### HOUSING

#### REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF STARTS FOR 1975

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the limited measures in the budget for a new housing program, and in view of the dismal record of housing starts in the first five months of this year, is the minister now prepared to give us a revised projection of housing starts for 1975?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have not been very good in making predictions so far, but so far as the performance of government assistance is concerned, it appears that it will be responsible for some 45,000 starts this year, which is a higher number than in any other year in history except for 1970.

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

**Mr. Danson:** The over-all picture reflects very much the general economic situation—

**An hon. Member:** Dismal.

**Mr. Danson:**—which is a tough situation in which we find ourselves, particularly in relation to private mortgage markets. However, in our consultations with lending institutions on the new enriched subsidy programs for assisted home ownership and limited dividend programs, I hope we can come much closer to the targets than I thought we would before the budget.

**Miss MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, in an effort to help the minister to be more precise, I would like to put to him the following question. Given the miserly approach of the