

*Oral Questions*

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that the reports produced by Statistics Canada on Friday of last week and on Monday of this week flatly contradict all the predictions made at the time of his mini-budget last fall, and all the predictions he made in documents for the first ministers' conference. If current investment patterns and job creation patterns are not borne out the way the minister forecast, as a result of the measures he has taken, why does he not have enough common sense to announce changes in those measures now, in order to get the economy moving?

**Mr. Chrétien:** If the hon. member will check what I said in my statement of October 20, he will see that what I predicted for the full year 1977 was less than the end result published on Monday. I said on Tuesday that I was disappointed with the last quarter report of Statistics Canada. However, I was not the only one who anticipated a very strong quarter. A few hours ago I had a discussion with a private group which has a good reputation in Canada. Mr. De Cotret of the Conference Board had in his predictions forecast 1.2 or 1.3 for the third quarter. They are puzzled, as are many other experts in this field, with the end result for the fourth quarter. In speaking with the retail business sector, the prediction was that all indications were very good for the fourth quarter.

**Mr. Stevens:** But you were wrong.

**Mr. Chrétien:** The private sector made the same forecast as the government. The end results were disappointing. Even the hon. member has stated that Statistics Canada can make some adjustment after reviewing their first round of calculations. I say that the predictions I made in October for the year 1977 were exactly the same as those shown on Monday.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, only the minister's colleagues and backbenchers could believe that bundle of nonsense he has just come out with.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** The central requirement of an economy that is going to grow is an investment pattern. The minister predicted less than three weeks ago, just days before the first ministers' conference, that we had to have a 7 per cent investment rate increase in the coming year. Statistics Canada shows it is likely to be a negative 3 per cent. In light of the figures produced yesterday, which disclosed there are only 32,000 jobs available in Canada for the more than 1½ million looking for them, will the minister immediately bring in measures to stimulate growth in the economy, instead of waiting in cynical fashion for the election campaign to make an announcement which ought to be made now?

● (1127)

**Mr. Chrétien:** If the hon. member would check the record, he would find that at the conference of first ministers we recognized that growth for 1978 was not predicted to be

[Mr. Chrétien.]

extremely good. That is why we undertook, with the provinces, to push forward big projects in the energy field. And, of course, there is the pipeline which will come very soon if the bill is passed in the House of Commons. We have taken a great many initiatives in terms of the creation of activity in the immediate future. At least the Premier of Saskatchewan is smarter than the leader of the NDP has shown himself to be in the House.

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[Translation]

**MANPOWER**

YOUNG CANADA WORKS PROGRAM—INQUIRY WHETHER NUMBER OF PROJECTS GREATER THAN LAST YEAR

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

In view of the fact that the time limit for submitting projects under the Young Canada Works program was February 17, could the minister advise the House whether he is aware of the number of projects which have been submitted this year? If so, is this number greater than the number of projects submitted last year? Also, by how many millions of dollars would the funds required exceed the credits currently earmarked for this program?

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, our Young Canada Works program was tremendously successful last year and so it is again this year. I do not have the figures the hon. member is seeking, but I shall obtain them for him.

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Since the minister is aware that this program has been quite successful for many years, I should like to call his attention to the fact that, in my own riding at least, the number of projects submitted has doubled this year, which is an indication of its popularity. However, the credits available being inadequate, could the minister advise the House whether he will recommend increasing the funds earmarked for this program, so that many more students may secure employment for the summer?

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for his representations.

INQUIRY WHETHER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Can the minister tell the House whether there is a student program in all provinces of Canada? If so, is this program consistent with the federal program so as