

Oral Questions

consumed in Canadian industries? This will lead to an additional exhalation of the cost of steel to the automotive industry and every other Canadian manufacturing industry, because that 25 per cent resource allowance induced Canadian iron industries to supply our domestic demand for iron. Why has that been included in the budget? Does the minister not realize the tremendous increase in unemployment which that will create?

● (1140)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): No, Madam Speaker. If the hon. member is referring to the steel industry, as I think he is, if the steel industries continue, as I expect it to do, to invest in the industry, the changes in the resource allowance will not for quite some time in any way affect their taxable situation.

Mr. Siddon: Madam Speaker, the minister is totally wrong. The Canadian Mining Association has made that point quite clear. The inflationary pressure on the steel industry is going to be of tremendous magnitude and will lead to additional unemployment in the automotive industry. The minister knows that.

RETRAINING OF DISPLACED MINERS

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Why is there no immediate strategic program to begin to retrain young people being displaced from the mining sector, when the mining association and others are predicting that within three years we will need some 3,000 to 5,000 additional trained and skilled people in that sector, and these young people are presently contemplating going on UIC and welfare? Why does the government not come forward with a program at the mine sites where they are presently employed in so that they can learn new skills and be prepared when that demand comes within two years time?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, the hon. member is obviously mistaken when he says there are no proposals to do that. If he had been watching more carefully he would have recognized that in the early part of January we put forward a very extensive set of proposals for a new national training program that will allocate our training funds to those areas of the economy where the jobs are. We met with the provincial governments. We received agreement from those governments to begin studying how we can revise that program. We hope to have a new program by this spring. Therefore, those proposals are well in hand and are proceeding very well. In the meantime, we have introduced a number of supplementary measures, particularly as they relate to the mining community, to provide for alternative employment and for additional training places. I will be glad to provide the hon. member with that information so that he can bring himself up to date.

Madam Speaker: I ask hon. members to try to be shorter in their questions. We are a little over ten minutes late in the usual progress of our question period. I would like to get more members in. That is the choice for members to make.

Mr. Nielsen: And the answers, too.

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AGRICULTURE

QUERY RESPECTING STATE OWNERSHIP OF LAND

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, Communist leaders boast that they can take over a capitalist country without firing a shot. May I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether there is a policy within his department by which he encourages state ownership of land?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): No.

ADVICE GIVEN TO FARMERS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Why then is an official in the Farm Credit office in Prince Albert telling farmers who are appealing to them for cash, after the \$50 million being offered to them, to sell their land to the land bank?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, the land bank is a provincial land bank. I have no knowledge of any Farm Credit official giving that advice. If he is doing that, he must have good evidence that it is probably the best way for them to recoup some money for the land. I cannot imagine that happening in Saskatchewan. When one looks at land values, how they have increased and how valuable land is becoming in Saskatchewan, why would anyone turn it over to the land bank in Saskatchewan to sell it? I cannot imagine that because purchases of land there are higher than they have ever been. There is a demand by other farmers for land in Saskatchewan.

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THE ECONOMY

FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE—PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE WAGE CONTROLS

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the prime minister. It concerns the first ministers' conference this week. This week the provinces rejected the Prime Minister's proposal for wage controls to be placed on public servants. I would ask whether he would be prepared at this time to give this House an assurance that neither now, nor in the months ahead, will he impose wage controls on federal public servants, or on anybody else unilaterally, as he did once before.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker—