

In particular, there are cases of one family member remaining in the old country who wishes to be reunited with the family here. The guidelines were intended to authorize and encourage immigration officers to give favourable treatment to such a last remaining family member who is financially or emotionally dependent on the rest of the family in Canada.

While we wait for the report, which was promised almost a year ago, the immigration officials continue to tighten the restrictions that they apply when interpreting these guidelines. They are causing severe personal hardship in a number of cases that have come to my attention, and they are departing from the humanitarian principles of our immigration legislation and policy.

I understand that officials of the Department have indeed been studying this issue and have in fact prepared a draft for the Minister, with recommendations which would improve the situation for these immigrants. Therefore I call upon the Minister to expedite this report, the report promised nearly a year ago—

• (1115)

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired. The Hon. Member for Red Deer.

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THE ECONOMY

CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, in 1968 the Canadian unemployment total was 351,000, or 4.5 per cent. Now it is 1,399,000, or 11.4 per cent. The unemployment rate for youth was 7.4 per cent and is now 18.2 per cent, up a whopping 10.8 percentage points, Mr. Speaker. In 1968 unemployment insurance costs were \$438 million. Now they are \$10,169 million, up 2,222 per cent. Since 1968 the purchasing power of the dollar has dropped to 31 cents, a minus 69 per cent. Interest rates have soared, and five-year mortgages have increased from 9.25 per cent to 13.25 per cent, and now will go higher.

In the past 16 years the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the Hon. John Turner, the Hon. Don MacDonald, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien), and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), have all been Finance Minister, in charge of the economy and the public purse. In that time the Government sector has mushroomed and unemployment has quadrupled. Prices have increased several times. If the Hon. John Turner had so many good ideas, why did he let the Liberals get into such a mess? He was the start of it all.

The Prime Minister also did the Canadian public a great disservice by delaying his departure until such time as an election could not be held before July 1, the Queen's visit and Pope John Paul's visit. With a June election, the economic mess could have at least—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FINANCE

REQUEST THAT NEW BUDGET BE INTRODUCED

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I would like to direct my question to the Minister of State for Finance. The unemployment figures were released today by Statistics Canada. The news is bad. Interest rates continue to climb, the dollar continues to fall, and unemployment shows no sign of improving. Indeed, the youth unemployment rate is up. In light of these economic indicators, which show virtually no growth in employment over the past quarter, and with interest rates continuing to rise, cutting into consumer demand, we can only anticipate that the situation will get worse.

Does the Minister of State for Finance, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, intend to indicate to the House that it is his intention, since the Budget of the Minister is no longer relevant, to bring in a new economic statement?

Hon. Roy MacLaren (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the unemployment numbers that were released indicate some progress in creating new jobs in Canada. Essentially we have seen the situation continue of the creation of new jobs being matched by additional people coming into the work force. The reported 0.2 per cent increase in jobs was matched by the increase in new entrants to the work force. But the creation of new jobs in Canada is in part, indeed as the Hon. Member suggests, the result of government stimulus, government action, to help create jobs.

The Member will know that we have acted in two broad ways to provide more job opportunities in our economy by direct government spending, through the special recovery and other programs in which there is direct federal funding. On the other hand there is the whole range of programs which the federal Government introduced in the April and February Budgets to stimulate more job creation in the private sector.

We have begun to see some of the benefits of the changes we have made, including those in investment tax credits. We have seen the special share purchase tax credit as an incentive to private investors—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. MacLaren: —to expand Canadian jobs.

Mr. Mazankowski: Order.

Mr. MacLaren: And we have also, of course, seen other initiatives that we have taken.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair is concerned about the length of answers to questions. The Hon. Member for St. John's East.