

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** That is ridiculous, when we realize we have a million people out of work!

**Mr. Pepin:** Yes indeed, Canada has one million people out of work and there are millions of people who are unemployed throughout the western world at this time.

**Mr. Mulroney:** And he is going to help them!

**Mr. Pepin:** Yes, yes, yes!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Come on! Is he really going to help them?

**Mr. Pepin:** Yes, yes.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Come on! This is outrageous!

**Mr. Pepin:** Most people in Canada realize that the unemployment problem we have in the world today is not exclusive to Canada. It is a problem that exists in all western countries.

The fact that the Minister of Finance of Canada was approached for this position, without having applied for it, reflects honourably on Canada, and I think it is an excellent opportunity for him to demonstrate his competence again, but in a much broader field.

**Mr. Mulroney:** It is like manna from heaven!

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[English]

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### REQUEST THAT MINISTER ADJUST POLICY

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration who, for three months in a row, has not been present in the House when the unemployment figures have come down. He has been running off to hide somewhere else.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, in his Budget of April 17 a year ago, the Minister of Finance said that his dominant concern was to help the more than 1.5 million Canadians who want to work but cannot find jobs. Today there are 1,541,000 people out of work. The Minister himself hopes that he will find a job with the OECD. Apparently his concern has now narrowed to one person, himself.

Given that the Minister said a week ago that there are adjustments he could make but he was satisfied with his basic policy, is he now dissatisfied with his basic policy? Will he make the adjustments he said he could make? Will he consult with the Minister of Justice, who says that he knows how to bring about full employment?

### Oral Questions

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I might first mention that it is strange to hear the Leader of the Official Opposition speak as he does because, if there is a man who knows about unemployment in this country, he should be the one, having turned Schefferville into a ghost town and closed about half of the North Shore in Quebec.

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

**Mr. McDermid:** What about Uranium City?

**Mr. Lalonde:** There is probably no other business person who has created more unemployment and misery in the country than the Leader of the Conservative Party.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Just to protect a rich American firm.

**Mr. Lalonde:** I have indicated to previous questioners that the Canadian economy is growing and that we expect the unemployment rate to fall during the course of this year. I still expect this to happen, and I am not considering at the present time making any changes to the Budget that I introduced on February 15.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, the theme song of the Government is: "Thrown out the lifeline; someone is coming to take me away". The Minister wants to be taken away to the OECD in Paris.

#### REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL ACTION

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** I would like to ask the Minister if he realizes that there are eight economic regions in the country in which the unemployment rate remains above 20 per cent? Does he realize that we now have 170,000 fewer jobs than we had at the pre-recession peak? When will he do what he says he will do? He said he could make the necessary adjustments if need be. What is the need? Do 1,541,000 unemployed people not create a need? Will the Minister not take steps to do something now, in view of the fact that the figures have risen this month and not fallen, as he said they would a month ago? It is time for this lame-duck Government to stop giving us lame-duck excuses.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the measures that the Government has taken are contained in the last two Budgets. These measures have led to significant recovery and growth in the Canadian economy. Canada has known a rate of growth which is comparable to that of the United States, and higher than practically every other industrialized country. In effect, this has meant that we have been able to compete around the world. It has meant that we have been able to have a record export surplus and a record trade balance, and it has meant that we have been able to create over 400,000 jobs since the depth of the recession.

Obviously I would have liked to have seen more jobs created faster, and I still hope that that will be the case. We are doing everything we can in that regard. Again, I am encouraged by the fact that we have become more productive, more efficient,