

being soft refers to other statements he has made in the past about not making enough effort to get jobs, I should like to ask if his government has looked at the situation in St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, where a mine is being shut down by Alcan? Apparently it made some \$85 million profit in the first six months of this year, so it is not being closed because it is a losing operation but because they say they can make higher profits elsewhere. And according to a recent government study Canadian auto workers are more productive than American workers, not less, but they are not getting some 20,000 jobs that they ought to, because the government has, among other things, failed to implement Canadian tax laws. Specifically, I should like to ask if he or his ministers in these two very different parts of the country have taken steps in the last few days to insure that Canadians who want jobs, not handouts, will get them?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I refer to the remarks and the debate because I do not really think I could convince the leader of the New Democratic Party in a short answer of the rightness of his theories or the righteousness of mine.

An hon. Member: They are very similar.

Mr. Trudeau: It would take longer than we have during the question period. Perhaps a short statistic in answer to his question might indicate the course of my thinking on these things. It is that in manufacturing generally Canadian workers are productive but only 80 per cent as productive as the American worker in manufacturing. At the same time, the average wage rate for the Canadian worker in manufacturing is 7 per cent higher than that of the American. If the hon. leader of the New Democratic Party thinks about that he will understand that this means our costs are higher and that we cannot compete with our main competitors in the market, the United States. If we cannot compete, that means we cannot continue to invest and if we cannot continue to invest, it means we cannot continue to create jobs. Therefore, the productivity of the worker in the Canadian manufacturing sector is very important. It has progressed, I agree, but it is still only 80 per cent of that of the Americans.

Mr. Broadbent: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister knows that in Canada as well as elsewhere in industrial countries the main reason for low or higher productivity is whether management has introduced new capital equipment or not. Instead of blaming Canadian workers, he might blame Canadian management for not keeping Canadian industry as competitive and up-to-date as that of other countries. With reference to his general statement would the Prime Minister for once undertake to provide the House with specific examples from the sector after sector he named when referring to Canadian productivity, and we would be prepared to consider the relevance of the general proposal. I come back to the specific question about the auto industry, an industry in which, according to the government's own study, Canadian workers are more productive. When is the government to take action, to ensure that we shall get the jobs in

Oral Questions

Canada to which we are entitled, namely, 20,000 more jobs than we now have?

• (1430)

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, of course, I agree in part with the leader of the New Democratic Party, when he says productivity is also a question of technology and entrepreneurship. I believe that we on this side have encouraged entrepreneurship more than the hon. member—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: Yes, you have encouraged them to leave.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I see groans in the opposition.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Canadians are all groaning.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I see it on the hon. member's face. There is a groan written right there. It is obvious that productivity is a matter not only for workers but for the entrepreneurial sector, too. That is why in the last budget we made substantial concessions to the entrepreneurial sector—

Mr. Broadbent: They didn't work.

Mr. Trudeau: —to create incentives to invest.

Mr. Broadbent: They have not worked.

Mr. Trudeau: I recall that the leader of the New Democratic Party opposed them at the time.

Mr. Broadbent: And they have not worked, have they?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the NDP must get his act together. If he wants—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: They have not worked.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: If he wants the private sector to increase its investment, to create more jobs, he must stop complaining when they make an honest profit.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF INTEREST RATES FOR MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. He has been reported as telling Canadians to learn to tighten their belts otherwise the government would have to take the necessary steps to have them do so. Does the Prime Minister consider the financial sector in Canada as Canadians, and is he