

years ago. Credits will be available as soon as the province of Quebec manages to agree with the federal government as to the adequate manner of spending the funds.

As far as dates are concerned, information should be requested from the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, who is in charge of that part of the program.

[English]

* * *

WELFARE

ASSISTANCE TO CITIES TO MEET PAYMENTS—INCREASE IN
PAYMENTS TO OLD AGE PENSIONERS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my question has to do with the cities and the unprecedented burden placed upon them as a result of rising unemployment which has in fact caused the number of people on the welfare rolls to increase at an accelerated rate. Since I understand the Prime Minister accepts responsibility for the high unemployment, is he now in a position to advise the House whether he has changed his mind in terms of assisting the cities and provinces to meet this very significant set of facts?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are still trying to get the opposition to consent to the passage of the organization bill so we can establish a ministry responsible for housing and urban development. I hope they will get on with the job.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether at this particular time the Prime Minister would direct the minister in charge of housing to call at his early convenience a tri-level conference, as was undertaken recently, in order that the cities can come together again with the minister's colleagues from the provinces so they can all sit down together to see whether they can solve the problem in the very near future and place a lot more Canadians back at work?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the Minister without Portfolio is perfectly able to do these things if required without direction from me, but he will do them all the more efficiently if he is provided with the tools to do it by the opposition which has been preventing the passage of the bill.

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the government House leader and I and the other House leaders have been trying to negotiate and discuss ways and means by which this bill can be passed. Certainly these improper and incorrect interventions by the Prime Minister do not assist negotiations of this kind.

Mr. Trudeau: That is a lie.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Témiscamingue.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question?

[English]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly resume his seat.

[Translation]

I apologize to the hon. member for Témiscamingue. I shall recognize him in a moment.

[English]

The hon. member for Calgary North rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago an objection was made by the Prime Minister and by you, Sir, with reference to the use of unparliamentary language. Now the Prime Minister has said to the House leader on this side, "It is a lie".

Mr. Trudeau: Right.

Mr. Woolliams: I would think that in his responsible position he should withdraw those words. He has been guilty of other kinds of unparliamentary language for a long time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair, of course, is in the same position at this time as it was a moment ago when the Prime Minister reported that the hon. member for Peace River had used an unparliamentary word and the hon. member for Peace River was gracious enough to recognize that and change his language. As I say, now I am in the same situation. I did not hear the exchange which took place between the right hon. gentleman and someone else, but if the Prime Minister has spoken that word certainly he also is in the same position as the hon. member for Peace River and should alter his language.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did use the word and I used it in the same sense as the House leader of the Official Opposition used it which, as you know, means something else.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I of course cannot agree.

An hon. Member: That is not a withdrawal.

Mr. Speaker: I suggest, with great respect and kindness to all hon. members and to the right hon. gentleman, that the task of the Speaker is difficult enough and that task should not be made more difficult. We are dealing, after all, with the use of words but there are traditions which must be respected. Again, as I say, the hon. member for Peace River made it possible for the Chair to accept a correction. I think the words he used were "verbal inexactitude". I am not sure whether I am using the exact words. However, there are some words we all know which should not be used because we have to respect the word of every member. It is unfair and unparliamentary and wrong in many other ways—

An hon. Member: Remember there are children in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker: —to accuse any other hon. member of a deliberate falsehood, which is what telling a lie is. I would hope that the Prime Minister would make a cor-