

*Oral Questions*

create jobs, so that we do not reach the stage next December at which there are perhaps one million Canadians unemployed. Also, to repeat a point made by many members of opposition parties, will the government inject more money into the housing market?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby conveniently forgets the injection of \$450 million into direct employment programs announced two weeks ago, following the strongly expansionary budget in November, in anticipation of the very problems the country is now facing.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**TRADE**

## SUGGESTED STUDY OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

In view of the fact that any import increase also means an increase in or import of unemployment and that an export increase also means lower unemployment, would the minister reconsider the whole export and import policy in Canada in order to promote further the domestic production of manufactured goods and thus improve job opportunities for Canadians?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I remind the hon. member that our domestic market is small when compared with the other major markets of the world. If Canada is to make its way industrially, it will need to be an exporter. We are an important exporter at present, perhaps 25 per cent of our gross national product consisting of exports. My department is making every effort to increase our exports in these difficult times.

\* \* \*

**TRANSPORT**

## LAY-OFFS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—SUGGESTED MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND PRESIDENTS OF RAILROADS

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Owing to the deteriorating state of our two national railways, a condition caused by the tremendous slump in our economy, and in view of the large lay-offs of railway employees, will the minister arrange an immediate meeting between himself and the presidents of the railways, to find a solution to their problems?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** No, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Broadbent.]

## REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE SUFFICIENT GRAIN CARS AVAILABLE NEXT FALL

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. At this time of crisis the minister ought to show leadership. Owing to the lay-offs, a minimum of work will be done to grain cars needing repair. Will the minister investigate, to make sure that enough grain cars will be available for grain shipments this summer and next fall.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the railway employees are represented by good unions, and if the unions think that this meeting can be useful, I am ready to listen to them. I am ready to receive both the unions and the employers.

\* \* \*

**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

## EFFECT OF STRIKES ON OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY OF MARITIME COMMAND—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Darmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence which arises from the rotating strikes of public employees in my area. The strikes have gone on for some weeks and culminated yesterday in the total withdrawal of services. Will the minister indicate to the House that the operational capability of Maritime Command has not been impaired by these rotating strikes or by the total withdrawal of services?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, it is correct to say that the rotating strikes have continued since June 5. As of today there are some 49 personnel off the job in Halifax and 196 away from work in Esquimalt. In answer to the hon. member's question let me say that it is obvious, with that many men away from work there will be some effect on the operational capability, but I can say that to date there has been no serious effect on operations.

\* \* \*

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

## SUGGESTED RESUMPTION OF BARGAINING WITH NATIONAL DEFENCE EMPLOYEES

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board. It arises out of the indication from the Minister of National Defence that there has, in fact, been some impairment as a result of the 47 men being off work. I wonder what he would have said in response to the 1,700 men who were off work yesterday. In light of the very critical situation now developing and the very real responsibility that we have not only to our allies in the south but to our NATO partners with respect to our defence capability in the maritimes, not to mention the responsibility we have with respect to national sovereignty, pollution and fisheries work, I wonder whether or not the President of the Treasury Board does not feel it is