

*Oral Questions*

it will be up to the House and the public to judge whether the trip will have been worth while.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** They already have.

**Mr. Trudeau:** They will see that, I suppose, if the private sector and Government relations do improve in the months to come.

## DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Prime Minister. I would point out that any private sector salesman who returned from an 18-day trip abroad with a blank order book would probably lose his job.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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

**Miss Carney:** In Tokyo the Prime Minister promised to sell unlimited quantities of Canadian natural resources to Japan which, in fact, is what Canada is already doing. In return he asked Japan to invest more in Canadian manufacturing in order to create jobs here. Since the former Japanese Ambassador to Canada says that the major obstacles to expanded Japanese investment in Canada are the Government's own policies, specifically, the National Energy Program and the Foreign Investment Review Agency, did the Prime Minister agree to alter these policies in his discussions with Japanese officials?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. lady shows that she does not understand much about trade if she suggests that after 18 days anybody in the private sector would come back with a filled order book.

**Mr. Clark:** Just one entry, Pierre.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The message which the businessmen whom I met in each one of these countries were conveying to each other, and to myself, was that to break into the market in those countries where the competition is very high from the Economic Community, from the U.S., and from Australia, as a businessman one had to go many times and stay there for years—

**Mr. Kempling:** Are you going back next month?

**Mr. Trudeau:** —it was not just one trip by businessmen which could be expected to yield a great deal of business. A great deal more persistence and less levity on the part of the Opposition would perhaps lead to deeper trade.

**Mr. McDermid:** You must have jet lag.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, I do.

**THE ECONOMY**

## STATEMENT BY CATHOLIC BISHOPS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister as well. During the Christmas break the Canadian Catholic Bishops produced a cogent analysis of the Canadian economy which the Prime Minister dismissed out of hand. Canadians have received from the Prime Minister since the 1980 election one disaster after another, ranging from the megaproject fiasco up to the two-month flirtation with an industrial strategy, all of which have produced, as the Leader of the Opposition has correctly pointed out, about two million unemployed. In the light of this totally disastrous record, where does the Prime Minister get the nerve to dismiss so readily the Bishops' very fine analysis of the Canadian economy?

• (1430)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Leader of the NDP must have been misinformed. I did not dismiss, as he says, the Bishops' analysis out of hand—that very fine analysis, as he puts it. I was asked a question in one of the countries where I was travelling about the Bishops, and I felt it was not the right time to discuss in any detail that particular important comment by the Bishops. My comment, which concerned their reflection on the fight against inflation, was that their economics was not all that steady, but I added that that was not the forum in which to discuss this matter.

The Bishops were discussing it amongst themselves. I would be happy to answer any substantive questions about this report that the Hon. Member wants to put because I feel it is more appropriate to do it here in Canada than in some foreign country.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I too feel it is appropriate to ask questions in a serious nature about that report.

## MORAL APPROACH

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, one of the serious concerns of the Bishops was that we should have a moral approach to the problems of the Canadian economy, one that is fair. They used, with care, the phrase "moral disorder" to characterize the Government's program, and specifically said that the Government of Canada was cutting back on pensions and family allowances, putting wage controls on Canadian workers, but at the same time leaving upper Canadian incomes untouched. Such a combination, in their analysis, leads appropriately to the description of a moral disorder.

Will the Prime Minister, for once in this context, act morally and bring forward a program of economic recovery that puts an equal burden on all Canadians?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is misinformed in his second question too. He knows that the Government is not cutting