

• (1410)

[English]

THE ECONOMY

EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Madam Speaker, with two million Canadians out of work and 500,000 Canadians on welfare, the breakdown of Liberal economic policy has produced a crisis of fear and despair in Canada. The social disruption, broken homes, alcoholism, and acute anxiety caused by Liberal economic policies have moved concerned churchmen to express their indignation on moral grounds at a deliberate policy of placing monetary considerations above the welfare of individuals.

The depression which we must endure is totally unnecessary for Canada. It was caused by years of deliberate Liberal Party policies, such as high deficits, inflation, centralization and state control. The Liberal Party policy of "eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you die", is now coming true.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of unemployed Canadians who are not, in the words of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), "skiing at Whistler" or "snorkeling in the Caribbean", this Party urges the Government to cease frittering away time in a vindictive pursuit of old people, widows and mothers, and to come up with effective and realistic policies to restore confidence and provide jobs.

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PENSIONS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF REGISTERED PENSION ACCOUNT

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Madam Speaker, I wish to make a statement pursuant to Standing Order 21. Although Canada's pension system is one of the best in the world it still requires some improvement. One of the major problems is that many pensioners receive an insufficient income. Many live below the poverty line.

One of the changes proposed in the Green Paper on pensions is the introduction of a Registered Pension Account, RPA, an account wherein savings could be locked for use during retirement. This would be one means of ensuring that increased access to tax assistance is used as intended, that is, for retirement savings. This change, the report points out, would create an improved vehicle for individual retirement savings which, in conjunction with the vesting and portability measures, would enable individuals to have truly portable pensions.

During one's lifetime the average individual changes his or her job more than once. Because of this, improving the portability of pensions is of the utmost importance.

I urge that the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) accelerate the establishment of a parliamentary committee to look into pension reform. I also urge the committee to consider seriously the establishment of a Registered

Oral Questions

Pension Account as a viable proposal to improve the pension system.

Madam Speaker, we hear heckling from Members of the NDP. They are not interested in pension reform. We on this side of the House are.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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BANK OF CANADA

INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE PENSIONS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, where does Governor Gerald Bouey of the Bank of Canada really stand on the Government's six and five program? Does he really believe in it? Does he support it? He presumably advised the Government to proceed with it. He says he supports it, but his actions betray his true position. One would expect him to follow the six and five program with regard to his own retired personnel if he really believed in the six and five program, but he obviously realizes that the program is a farce, since, while most retired Canadians must live within a 6 per cent hike in Old Age Security benefits this year, the pensions of 484 former employees of the Bank of Canada have been raised by 11.5 per cent, fully covering the rate of inflation and more. It would appear that Mr. Bouey has now joined the rest of Canada and has pulled even his support of the six and five program.

Perhaps we should ask Mr. Ian Sinclair and his blue chip committee to approach Mr. Bouey to check if Bouey, too, along with them, believes the six and five program is not the avenue the Governor should pursue, which would hopefully encourage the Government to pull its six and five legislation currently before the House.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

EAST COAST OFFSHORE EXPLORATION—EFFECT OF REDUCED CRUDE OIL PRICES

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, perhaps I could direct my question either to the Prime Minister or to the Minister of Finance.

Some Hon. Members: There he is!

Mr. Andre: Oh, here comes the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Bolt the door behind you!