

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order.

PLEA FOR STIMULUS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct another question to the Prime Minister. I repeat, Premiers from western Canada, from central Canada and from the Atlantic region are sensitive to the human cares of Canadians. For example, for the first time in its history, the city of Toronto is going to have to respond with an emergency food depot because of concern for unemployment. The Premiers are concerned. I want to ask the Prime Minister will he promise us there will be stimulus of the economy to give Canadians what they want, which is jobs, not welfare.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I think the Leader of the New Democratic Party is engaging in a political game of the nature in which he always engages. The Premiers were here; we spent about three hours talking about the economy. He is not quoting what the Premiers said publicly about the meeting or, indeed, what I said publicly about it. He is talking about some secret information that the Premiers gave to him—

Mr. Broadbent: It is not secret; they said it publicly.

Mr. Trudeau:—of matters that did not take place. If the Hon. Member wants to quote the Premiers, I would suggest that the Premiers can talk for themselves. If he has a case to make, he should be able to make it in the House without inventing things that did not happen at our economic discussion.

The Hon. Member suggests that I make vows to the end of 1983. Let him make a vow to stick a little closer to the truth, not to fabricate, not until the end of 1983—we do not ask that—but just until the end of Lent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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MINES AND MINING

CYPRUS ANVIL MINE IN YUKON

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development my question will be directed to the Minister of Finance. The people of Yukon have been waiting for almost six months for a decision by the Government which would salvage the economy of Yukon. Would the Minister tell this House and the people of Yukon whether the cabinet has made a decision on the detailed proposal for saving the Cyprus Anvil Mine, a proposal which was presented to him and his colleagues on March 2 by a widely representative group from the Yukon? Has a decision been reached, and what is it?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, various meetings were held on this issue among representatives of the organizations concerned, the unions, the company and spokesmen for the Yukon authorities. There have been multilateral and bilateral meetings. However, no decision has been made yet, and the proposals are still being considered, and I am referring particularly to those that are the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

[English]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, the delegation from Yukon presented a carefully prepared proposal and told the Minister that this proposal offered the final hope for the Cyprus Anvil Mine and the town of Faro. Is the Minister telling the House today that the Government is prepared to witness the death of this important northern mine, which contributes 40 per cent to the Yukon economy, and watch that town and that community close down permanently, with the railway to Skagway already being shut down at great cost? If not, what assistance plan does the Minister find acceptable? Will he at least consider assisting work on the restoration and the improvement of infra-structure, railway and power projects, so that the mine can be restored to economic viability and be able once again to compete on world markets?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I indicated that as soon as decisions were made by the Government in this respect, they would be duly announced, but in any case, I have pointed out to the parties concerned that both the company and the bank had responsibilities, that it was wrong to assume that the Federal Government was alone in having a role to play and that both the company and the bank had to do their share and discharge their responsibilities.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

MAISLIN INDUSTRIES—OBSERVANCE OF LOAN GUARANTEE AGREEMENT

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I am seeking clarification with respect to questions asked earlier this week. Last summer the Government bailed out Maislin Transport with an unprecedented \$34 million loan guarantee. Can the Minister tell the House whether or not all the terms of the loan agreement have been met to the satisfaction of the Government and, specifically, the term in the agreement which stated that the shareholders would have to