

Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister say whether the government has ready or almost ready a direct job creating program for such a period as this and, if so, when will it be announced?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the House will remember that one year ago we had a program which was to be spaced over a period of three years, and discussions have gone on with the provinces. There are more funds to be expended under this program. As to other programs not yet announced, I am afraid the hon. member will have to wait and see what action the government will take in the hypothetical situation that he suggests.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct another supplementary question to the Prime Minister. As it is a matter of deep concern to all Canadians that every time these unemployment figures come out Newfoundland is at the top of the list, I wonder whether the Prime Minister will consider holding a Newfoundland economic opportunities conference to see whether we can do something for that province?

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister was trying to get on his feet to answer my question, and surely he should be allowed to answer if he wishes to do so.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Since the Prime Minister is always so well informed of the situation and the ups and downs of the unemployment rate in Canada, what does he feel is responsible for the increased number of unemployed this time of the year?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think that a question thus enunciated is quite in order. The Prime Minister may wish to answer, but when the hon. member asks the Prime Minister what he feels a situation is attributable to, I doubt that such a question is in order. As I am aware, however, that some hon. members are anxious to ask a series of questions on this important topic, I have no objection to the Prime Minister answering the question put by the hon. member for Témiscamingue, if he so desires.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to point out to the hon. member that the figures do not indicate whether there has been an increase in the unemployment rate. In actual terms, unemployment has continued to decrease in June. It is when we talk about seasonal figures that the hon. member can draw this conclusion, but that does not mean that there are fewer workers at work; on the contrary, there are more.

Oral Questions

[English]

YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—JOB CREATING PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State. I would ask the minister if he can confirm that it is now the government's intention not to combine the LIP and OFY programs and that, despite the continuing climb in real unemployment among young people, it is now proposed to orient OFY away from direct job creating activities. If so, what is the government going to do to help young Canadians find jobs.

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, if there is any change in the form of OFY, it will be announced in the normal way. As I have indicated to the House before, there are discussions going on now about the future of OFY, and these will be concluded.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, will the minister now give a firm undertaking to reconsider the government's decision not to tell the House about those plans before the parliamentary recess and make an early and full statement on motions relative to the future of OFY and any new program to help young Canadians find jobs?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, I prefer to make the announcement after we have concluded our discussions, and as the House may rise shortly, those may not be concluded by that date.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. As retail sales, housing starts, manufacturing shipments and new orders have all been slackening while unemployment has started to rise again, is it the government's intention before the House recesses for the summer—I will wait until the Prime Minister has finished waving to the gallery. Is he through? Is it the intention of the government, before the parliamentary recess for the summer, to introduce an industrial strategy that will get the economy moving at a satisfactory pace?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that really depends on the date on which Parliament will adjourn for the summer, and I believe no adjournment date has been put before the House as yet.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a supplementary, then the hon. member for Yorkton—