

**Mr. Firth:** Is the minister's goal for housing production under the native housing program for 20,000 or 50,000 units? Given the high unemployment rates and extreme poverty on reserves across this country as well as the incredibly low income levels, how does the minister intend to supplement incomes so that native people can afford a one per cent mortgage interest rate, let alone eight per cent or ten per cent?

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, without going into great detail on all the programs the intention of my ministry is not to supplement income. In this case, we made housing available and we are doing it in concert with the native people. The programs have an initial objective of 50,000 units. We are working with Métis and non-status Indian organizations across the country to try to improve the delivery system. The gains are slower than either of us would wish, but there are gains to be made and they are building on those. This is the type of thing which native people are doing themselves and are doing exceedingly well.

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### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

#### REQUEST FOR OUTLINE OF INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE POLICIES TO MAKE CANADIAN PRODUCTS MORE COMPETITIVE

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Yesterday the minister outlined to the House the activities that he and his department have been engaged in during the past year which have allowed the economy to drift into the most serious industrial and trade situation which this country has faced since the depression of the thirties. Will the minister take the first opportunity on motions to outline to the House what plans he has, if any, to introduce policies which will make our industrial products more competitive with those of foreign countries which are stealing our markets in Canada as well as the export market in increasing quantities every day and which is the cause for our unemployment being well over 7 per cent.

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I invite the hon. member to come to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs this afternoon. My main estimates are there. I would very much look forward to discussing this important question with him.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, as the minister knows the committee meetings, as far as he is concerned, are a loss because he takes up the ten minutes allowed by saying absolutely nothing. I would ask him this. In view of the fact that the program which he proudly outlined yesterday has been so weak and badly directed that it has allowed our economy to slip into the most serious situation we have faced in 40 years, does he not believe that it is time for him to either ship up—

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

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Hees:** Shape up. It is very simple, no matter which the minister would do, he would do it weakly and poorly. Is it not time that he either did the job as he is supposed to do or got out and let somebody else do it better?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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### PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

#### REQUEST PRIME MINISTER ATTEND COMMITTEE MEETING TO EXPLAIN ESTIMATES

**Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, given the new enthusiasm on the government side for attendance in committee, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister, if I can bring him from the back benches. My question concerns the consideration of estimates of the Privy Council office by the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, which has so far been refused the presence of the relevant deputy minister, Mr. Michael Pitfield. I wonder if the Prime Minister himself, as the responsible minister, is prepared to face that standing committee, to defend the estimates and explain the activities of the Privy Council office and the Prime Minister's office.

● (1450)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for wanting to see a little more of me. Let me say that I am in the House every day and am prepared to answer whatever questions are recognized as being in order. So far as the committee's proceedings are concerned, the Acting Prime Minister, the President of the Privy Council, will be there at the next meeting of the committee and I am sure he will handle himself with his usual ability.

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that we are at last to have a responsible minister attending that committee. May I ask the Prime Minister whether the relevant deputy ministers, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Pitfield, will also be in attendance?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member may have been here the other day and heard the right hon. member for Prince Albert say that when he was Prime Minister of the country he certainly followed the tradition of never having the secretary of the cabinet appear before the parliamentary committee. I think he was dead right.

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, is it the position of the Prime Minister—

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** —that the powers of the Privy Council office are now the same as they were ten years ago?