

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: However, the hon. member might be interested in knowing that I am going as far as Siberia.

Mr. Hees: The Prime Minister should not just go there; he should stay there.

EFFECTIVENESS OF MANITOBA DEFICIT FINANCING PROGRAM IN DECREASING UNEMPLOYMENT—SUGGESTED CONSULTATION

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that, unlike the rest of Canada, the unemployment figures for the province of Manitoba have decreased each month for the past three months because of the aggressive deficit financing program of that province, will the minister consult with his opposite number in Manitoba to find out how they do this and do the same?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary is in the form of a suggestion.

* * *

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

In view of the contradictions which cast doubts on his words, could the Prime Minister once and for all clarify the situation and tell us whether or not the existence of a parallel government under the leadership of Mr. Claude Ryan has influenced the government in its decision to invoke the War Measures Act last October?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think that question is in order at this stage. The hon. member for Calgary North.

Mr. Woolliams: My question has already been answered, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

DECISION ON ATLANTIC PROVINCES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to direct a question to the much neglected Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Can the minister inform us, and I hope he can, when he is going to give an answer, which I will hope will be favourable, to the demand of the Atlantic Development Council for an appropriate strategy of development for the Atlantic provinces? I ask this question particularly in view of the tragic unemployment figures indicated in the DBS report for the Atlantic provinces, which are substantially higher than when the minister took office.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, of course we are working in close co-operation with the Atlantic provinces. To my mind, the Leader of the Opposition is not or does not want to be aware of the statistics. Since my department's programs have been in effect in the Maritimes the unemployment rate in this region, which used to be double the national average, has been cut by half this year and is still going down. So the unemployment rate has not increased compared with the national average, but it has decreased, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question. Can the minister tell us when he will be able to appoint a chairman of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, or are his policies so ineffective and discouraging that he cannot find anyone to put in that position?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

ATLANTIC PROVINCES—EFFECTIVENESS OF DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Notwithstanding the fact that the minister just misrepresented the figures on unemployment in the Atlantic provinces, is he now prepared to admit that his policies cannot work within the present framework of government policies and that unemployment is growing at a rapid rate in the Atlantic region and in the province of Quebec? Is the minister prepared to admit that his program is ineffective within the framework of government policies?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

Mr. McGrath: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister should be entitled to reply to my question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that is a decision which has to be made by the Chair. The Chair is not prepared to allow the minister to reply to a question which in my view is clearly argumentative. The hon. member asked the minister whether he is prepared to admit that his policies are not good policies. That is an argument, not a question which is proper or procedurally correct.

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

[English]

Mr. McGrath: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the minister is rising on a question of privilege.