

## CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

### DUTY IMPOSED ON ROSARY BEAD MATERIALS

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, I want to refer to a case that has arisen in my riding. A guild of rosary makers composed of senior citizens has been assembling rosaries for religious purposes. These rosaries are distributed free to school children and to missions abroad. Until recently the materials used in the assembly of the rosaries had been passed into Canada by Canada Customs free of duty and sales tax. Recently I received a letter from a member of the guild who states that last November it was advised that, with the exception of the crucifixes and centres, all of these materials could be used for other purposes and were therefore liable for duty and tax. He went on to point out that, while they could be, they are not.

• (1115)

I call upon the Minister of National Revenue to investigate this case immediately. It seems to me that if a religious order, no matter what denomination, is able to prove that it is using materials for religious purposes, that surely is the test, not whatever other purposes they could be used for. I call on the Minister of National Revenue to look into this matter.

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## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### PRIME MINISTER'S PREDICTION—REQUEST FOR POLICY CHANGES

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. He will recall that 12 days ago he told Canadians and this House that unemployment had been reduced to less than 10 per cent. He went on to say, and I quote: "It is obvious unemployment is coming down". Given the fact that this morning Statistics Canada told us that unemployment is going up, I wonder if the Prime Minister could apologize to the House for that prediction and if he could tell us what changes in direction are indicated, given the fact that unemployment is in fact going up.

Can we expect changes in policy to stimulate jobs in the private sector, changes in policy in the public sector or, if we really get lucky, the resignation of the Minister of Finance? Which of these changes does the Prime Minister think is indicated in order to get Canadians working again?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Or the resignation of the Prime Minister.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the budget date has been announced and it is less than two weeks away. The Hon. Member is asking me to speculate on its contents. He would know that that would not be my practice.

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Speaker, I think we feel a sense of panic on this side of the House, that the Budget is coming down and we have the same Finance Minister.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN CANADA AND UNITED STATES

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister's briefing notes were obviously in error. Just two days ago the Minister of Finance gave us some of his assumptions. My question relates to the assumptions, that he is using. He told us that we were slightly behind the United States in terms of our recovery. In the United States employment has been going up for six months in a row; in Canada in the last four months unemployment has been going up—in fact it has been going up for six months in a row. The number of jobs has been going down. If the Minister of Finance intends to bring in policies predicated on that assumption, he is dead wrong.

Could the Prime Minister tell us that we can expect a change in policy that will take some of the misery out of the minds, hearts, and souls of the 1.5 million unemployed people in this country? Can we at least have an assurance that we will get some different direction that will get Canadians working again? That is all we want.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member complains about his and his Party's sense of panic. That is not my problem; that is his problem. Probably they are panicked because the last budget the Minister of Finance brought down was such a successful one.

**Mr. McDermid:** We have seen the results.

**Mr. Trudeau:** It was accepted as being the right kind of budget by every impartial commentator in the country. That excludes the Hon. Member and his Party, of course. It put forward some \$4.8 billion in job creation and infrastructure creation terms. It created jobs in this country on a year to year basis at a higher rate than any other industrialized country. I can understand the panic, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Let's get the Romanians to help.

**Mr. Hawkes:** We simply reflect the sense of panic of the 1.5 million unemployed in the country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### REQUEST THAT GENERAL ELECTION BE CALLED

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister will recall that four years ago on January 12, 1980, in Toronto he said:

The Conservatives plan to increase unemployment by 100,000; Liberals will fight to lower it.

Today, four years later, we have 514,000 more people unemployed than we had at the time the Prime Minister made that speech. Could he indicate to the House whether, in the interest of providing hope to Canadians, we can expect the