

## GOVERNMENT ACTION INQUIRY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, it was the Minister who made the promise in the House yesterday, and then in the committee, that the Government would be prepared to take action at a certain point. In the name of the farmer and home owner who must know, if they are to have some stability in their lives, when will the Government take some action?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the Hon. Member was not in the House yesterday or in the committee yesterday, because then he would have at least quoted me correctly. I did not say that we would take action. We are already taking action, and we have taken action. We have done this in the Budget which I have put forward, and in the Speech from the Throne. We are continuously taking action.

I said that we are monitoring the situation and, if necessary, adjustments will be made to our policies. At the present time I see no reason to make any adjustment to the proposals I put forward in the February 15 Budget. If my friend wants to take the time and trouble to check what was said, he could at least represent it accurately.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I made the mistake of assuming that the Minister of Finance, as a Liberal, meant action when he said that he would make adjustments. I should have known that action and the Liberal Government are a contradiction in terms.

## TIMING OF POSSIBLE POLICY ADJUSTMENTS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I accept what the Minister has now said, that he is really not promising action. If that is the case, will he tell us when he will make his adjustments? The last time we went through this merry-go-round in interest rates they went up to 22 per cent, which was an unmitigated disaster for the economy of Canada and the people of Canada. Is the Minister telling us that he will not make adjustments even if interest rates go back up to 22 per cent? At what level will he act?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, Perhaps if the Hon. Member were in the House more often, he would have less trouble interpreting and understanding the answers we are giving, which are quite straightforward.

I clearly indicated that the Government has taken many measures to address the economic situation in Canada.

● (1440)

These measures were included in the Budget brought down last April and are aimed at assisting all sectors of the Canadian economy, and especially the private sector which needed incentives to provide for the economic recovery we experienced in the past year and are experiencing at the present time.

## Oral Questions

These measures have been amplified by additional measures in the Budget brought down on February 15 of this year. In that Budget and in the Speech from the Throne, we announced a series of other measures, including measures to assist young people, for whom we created a special youth fund of \$1.3 billion to help create jobs for young people. We also announced measures to assist small businesses, measures that will provide a stimulus of about \$150 million for small businesses; measures to help those who are in need, including single Canadians over 65 who, this year, will receive \$50 more with their guaranteed income supplement. Those are just a few of the many measures that have been proposed by the Government.

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[English]

## GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

COST OF ADVERTISEMENT IN *CALGARY HERALD*

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Can he explain the need for a full page ad in *The Calgary Herald* promoting himself and his hat, instead of placing a much smaller ad in bold print, if one was needed at all? Can the Minister justify the expenditure of \$4,000 promoting his profile? Had he funnelled that money to one farmer and his family, he might have saved them from bankruptcy.

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

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I can show the Hon. Member the correspondence and I can show him how many years that ad has been carried to support agriculture in one of the greatest provinces in the production of agriculture in Canada, and that is Alberta. We have done that since 1979. It is too bad the Hon. Member does not read *The Calgary Herald* more often, or he would see the ad more often.

## MINISTER'S HAT

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, the ad has a rather large picture of the Minister and his hat. Would the Minister of Agriculture announce his leadership intentions now before he spends any more of the taxpayers' money, so that farmers and other Canadians will know? Otherwise we would suggest that the Prime Minister take away his stetson, in its place put a dunce hat, and send him off to the four corners of the country.

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

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

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member reeks with jealousy, that's for sure.

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