

*Oral Questions*

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

● (1425)

**Mr. Wilson:** Madam Speaker, let me ask the question very succinctly of the minister. It is a very serious question. How can the people of Canada trust a government which in 1974 said that there would be no wage and price controls, and there were, and in 1980 said "Vote Liberal to keep energy prices down?" How can they trust them?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I think that is a question the Canadian people will answer—

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

**Miss MacDonald:** Give them the chance.

**Mr. MacEachen:** As I said, that is a question that the Canadian people will be able to answer at the appropriate time. All I know, based upon past experience, is that when given a choice between this party and the Conservative Party, they always decide to trust this party and not the Conservative Party.

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

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### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### GOVERNMENT POSITION ON JOB CREATION

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. First, I would like to say to the Minister of Finance that he has clearly demonstrated that, given the choice between a Liberal budget and a Conservative budget, there is no difference.

My question to the Prime Minister is relevant to the concerns of more than one million Canadians who are unemployed. For the past two years the government has said that it is going to be active in job creation. No fewer than three ministers have embarked on programs which they said would provide jobs. The net result is that since November we have had a decline in the manufacturing sector alone of 140,000 jobs. My question to the Prime Minister is asking whether the government is serious or not about job creation. If it is, when are the more than one million unemployed Canadians going to see some action?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the question was asked of me about three or four weeks ago. At that time I gave several examples of announcements which were of a job-creating nature. Since then there have been at least two or three more. I believe there was one by the Minister of Employment and Immigration on human resources, and another by the Minister of Public Works responsible for housing.

#### ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, since the Prime Minister gave that answer a few weeks ago, the figures for unemployment have been released. They show the highest level of unemployment in Canadian history since statistics were compiled. That is the net result of those programs. I would like to ask him very specifically about an area that affects Canadians from coast to coast, the manufacturing sector. We have a \$21 billion deficit in manufacturing trade. If the Prime Minister is concerned about job creation, will he take steps that will turn this around by calling in to his office the heads of the key multinational corporations in the manufacturing sector, and obtain from them commitments for job creation in Canada that are at least in proportion to their sales in this country?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I do not propose to call them into my office. However, as the Minister of Finance indicated in his first answer today, we are meeting with business leaders. I met with some in Toronto a short while ago. I met with some co-operative leaders in the west. The Minister of Finance is proposing to meet with business leaders as well as with labour leaders in the coming days and weeks.

#### MANUFACTURING AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SECTORS

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, surely the point is not to simply have meetings. The point is to obtain very specific commitments that will produce jobs for those Canadians who need them. I would like to ask a particular variant of the question that I just put to the Prime Minister with reference to the manufacturing and transportation equipment sectors. If we remove the imbalance in trade of these two sectors, we would have more than 118,000 jobs in Canada. Will he, as Prime Minister, speak to the heads of the largest multinationals in these two sectors and ask them to make specific commitments that they will earn their profits in this country by providing jobs in Canada proportionate to their sales? Why can he not do that?

● (1430)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, in so far as producing jobs in this country is concerned, the hon. member knows that the Foreign Investment Review Agency is precisely set up with a view to ensuring that further expansion by multinationals or investment goes along with that type of condition. If he is talking about the present situation I think that the hon. member is in some difficulty if he is insisting that I get the multinationals to do what—to sell below cost in world markets, or is he suggesting in some way that they should be more competitive with world markets? If so, that involves prices but it also involves wages.

As the hon. member knows, many unions in the United States are renegotiating a downward reopening of wage packages. They are not doing that in Canada yet.