

Oral Questions

Mr. MacEachen: These training funds and these training programs will be of particular benefit to young people under 24 years of age.

An hon. Member: Might as well teach them how to shoot pool.

Mr. MacEachen: So, that is the beginning of the speech that I will make when I am invited to address students this spring.

• (1230)

REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION OF BANK OF CANADA GOVERNOR
AND OF MINISTER

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, the minister's reaction reminds me of a doctor giving aspirin to someone in intensive care requiring serious surgery. No one is going to believe that particular statement, because the people who graduated last year do not have jobs.

Two years ago, Madam Speaker, the Minister of Finance fobbed off his responsibilities to Governor Bouey, whose sole interest is monetary policy at the expense of bankrupt and unemployed Canadians. Is the minister now prepared to resume his responsibility of economic and financial leadership and ask for Governor Bouey's resignation? If not, is he prepared to give us all an Easter present today by submitting his resignation?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, if I thought Mr. Bouey's resignation or mine would improve the situation—

Miss MacDonald: It would.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: —I would be prepared to consider that situation.

Miss MacDonald: Lord Carrington did it on principle.

Mr. MacEachen: I know the hon. member's leader from time to time has extolled the virtues of the new socialist government in France, and I wonder if he would ask for the resignation of President Mitterrand or his finance minister when he next goes to the Socialist International, because there is now 9 per cent unemployment—

Mr. Fulton: Canada, Allan. C-a-n-a-d-a.

Mr. MacEachen: —in France, where it was 7.5 per cent before the socialists came into power. Would that justify calling for Mr. Mitterrand's resignation if it justifies calling for mine? Would he tell me that?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. McDermid: Get rid of all the socialists.

[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE
MEASURES TO CREATE JOBS

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, I have only one question for the Minister of Finance, considering the disastrous situation we are in today. I think the minister should be held responsible for these record levels of unemployment in Canada—particularly coming from a province that has itself set a new record—in collusion with the seventy-four members opposite who supported the economic philosophy of the Minister of Finance. In the circumstances, is the Minister of Finance—who is reluctant to hand in his resignation—willing to introduce, at least for a province such as mine, any new measures or any new policy, or could the Minister of Finance find it in himself to tell the House whether he is convinced that he will be able to turn around the Canadian economy, although every action that has been taken is ample proof of a yet unheard of failure? Will he do the honourable thing and resign or at least introduce measures that will actually create jobs?

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, as I stated earlier, every industrialized country in the world—

Mr. La Salle: Speak about my country.

Mr. MacEachen: —is struggling with this unemployment problem. I believe most Canadians understand that the economic situation we have in Canada is heavily influenced by world events. May I address the hon. member in the way that I addressed the hon. member for the NDP, and remind him that with a Conservative government in the United Kingdom unemployment is now 11.8 per cent in comparison with 9.9 per cent a year ago.

Mr. La Salle: We are in Canada; the problem is here.

Mr. MacEachen: They are part of the world, too. Madam Speaker, I am trying to remind hon. members and the country that these problems are deeper than the political interpretation that hon. members opposite give to every unemployment statistic. They come from sources deeper than political labels and political rhetoric.

REQUEST THAT NATIONAL CONFERENCE BE CONVENED

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is also to the Minister of Finance. As the minister still appears to be reluctant to resign, and appears to be empty of policies to deal with some of these crucial issues as evidenced by unemployment levels today, would he at least give consideration to holding a conference where provincial, labour and business leaders might meet with him and his colleagues in order to put fresh ideas to them as to how this nation can get