

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will be glad to refer that question to the appropriate minister, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Broadbent: A supplementary question. When the Prime Minister refers that question to the appropriate minister would he find out or get a commitment or issue a directive to the minister, rather, indicating the desirability of having statistics available on a regular basis which indicate the level of unemployment on the reserves with our native people. This is obviously a very important way for this House to determine the policies and programs and to what degree they need to be improved to provide employment for these people?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will gladly refer that question to the minister as well.

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[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST OF QUEBEC TO BE REIMBURSED FOR NOT USING FORCE—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCE

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Yesterday, I asked him a question arising from the remarks the Quebec Minister of Justice had made the night before on the CBC network, accusing him of hiding behind the Solicitor General and behaving like an hypocrite in connection with the money asked by the province of Quebec in compensation with the non utilization by the Quebec government of the RCMP. The Prime Minister replied yesterday that he would check the remarks made by the Quebec Minister of Justice. Can the Prime Minister now advise the House whether he has checked and communicated with the Quebec Minister of Justice and, in the affirmative, what sort of understanding or misunderstanding they have reached?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, in part, Mr. Speaker. I have read some excerpts of the statement made by Mr. Choquette, but I have not seen the complete statement yet. I have been told that he added this morning to what he had already said. I was not aware of this before I came into the House. I simply cannot reply as long as I have not read the complete statement. On the other hand, I am not the type to hide behind any of my ministers; if Premier Bourassa wants to contact me about this, I think he could do it directly, without passing through Mr. Choquette.

[English]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, a point of order. Just when the Prime Minister was sitting down after having answered my last question, which was really intended for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, that minister came into the House. I wonder if I could be permitted to direct the question to him now that he is here.

Mr. Trudeau: He will get notice of it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for South Shore.

[Mr. Broadbent.]

FISHERIES

LOSSES OF LOBSTER FISHERMEN AS RESULT OF STORM—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the staggering lobster trap losses suffered by lobster fishermen from Sable Islands, Shelburne County, to Cole Harbour, Halifax County, Nova Scotia, as a result of a severe storm on the night of December 2 which delivered a crippling blow to the inshore lobster fishing industry, has the minister taken steps to classify this area as a disaster area or what action does the government contemplate taking to assist these fishermen in surmounting their disastrous losses?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for indicating to me yesterday that he intended to raise this question. My colleague from Yarmouth also raised it. I regret to inform the House that some 92,000 traps have been lost and in some areas it has been a complete disaster, with as much as a 75 per cent loss. In other areas the loss varies from 25 per cent to 40 per cent. When we get a full assessment I hope we can do something about it.

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THE ARTS

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO CHARLOTTETOWN CENTRE OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State of which I sent him notice yesterday. I am sure his parliamentary secretary will be able to reply. May I ask if the minister has received an urgent request for an emergency grant for structural and maintenance aid for the Confederation Centre of the Performing Arts in Charlottetown. Also, can he advise what measures of assistance are contemplated for this artistically valuable cultural centre erected by the national and provincial governments to commemorate the Charlottetown conference of 1864, the deliberations of which brought this country into being.

● (1430)

Mr. Gustave Blouin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take the hon. member's question as notice and refer it to the minister.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT IN SEEKING CONSENSUS OF VARIOUS GROUPS

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. As the Minister of Finance said yesterday, "I want the labour movement and business to tell me what they can do and then we will see if we can work out a consensus," is it not