

fact that Friday last he had the opportunity to meet with the leader of the Liberal party of Quebec, who is also the former president of the No committee, I imagine they discussed the list of subjects to be raised during the federal-provincial conference in September. Yesterday the leader of the QLP said that the list was nothing more than a draft which would have to be completely remade, devoid as it is of such fundamental elements as the linguistic and cultural duality of Canada and the existence of a distinct society in Quebec. Given those remarks, does the Prime Minister intend to accept the invitation the leader of the QLP made to him yesterday?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, in his question the hon. member for Joliette said that he thinks the leader of the Quebec Liberal party and I discussed that list of priorities.

I can assure him that we discussed neither the list nor the statement of principles. I think the hon. member is making a mistake when he says Mr. Ryan stated that the list was just a draft. I rather think Mr. Ryan referred to the statement of principles. I, for one, do not contest such a description. I proposed it as such to the provincial premiers. It was a view of the federal government which I thought would have the support of a majority of Canadians but it certainly contains matters which are subject to discussion and amendment. That is why we gave ourselves several weeks during which the Minister of Justice and his colleagues will attempt to improve the draft.

As for linguistic duality, I think it is clearly recognized in that statement of principles and I would very much like to have the support of the hon. member for Joliette in that regard.

INQUIRY WHETHER PEPIN-ROBARTS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Since Mr. Ryan also admits that he has drawn inspiration from the Pepin-Robarts report, I do not understand how the Minister of Transport can remain silent, considering the apathy shown by the Prime Minister. However, taking the report into account the Liberal party leader has stated that he could not follow the Prime Minister of Canada since he wanted to base his constitutional reform solely on one peoples. Would the Prime Minister tell us today whether he intends to take seriously the recommendations of the Pepin-Robarts report, the comments made by the leader of the Liberal party of Quebec, the former president of the No committee, and refrain from making Canadians believe that he has a mandate following the results of the referendum on the matter?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the hon. member refers to the Pepin-Robarts report. The analytical and historic parts of the report indicate quite well, I think, the concept of duality in Canada. We have tried

Point of Order—Mr. W. Baker

to recognize that concept in the statement of principles to which the hon. member refers. We have spoken of the meeting of the French and English fact in Canada. We have also spoken about the linguistic duality. As for the term "people", unless I am mistaken, the Pepin-Robarts report nor any other rejects the concept of people. We must use a term to describe the inhabitants of Canada. Would the hon. member rather speak of the Canadian nation? Or would the concept of people be more acceptable? He should indicate a term to say that a population is living and wants to continue to live in this country. This is, as I said, what was decided by a majority in the Quebec referendum. The referendum did not deal with one term or another, but surely it indicated the will of Quebeckers to be part of a living whole in Canada and that normally there would be no objection to refer to them as a people.

* * *

● (1200)

[English]

EMPLOYMENT

REASON FOR LOSS OF JOBS IN CANADIAN ECONOMY

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In the recent labour force survey there was a notification that 68,000 jobs had been lost from the Canadian economy in the last month.

Can the minister tell the House from what sectors those jobs were lost, manufacturing or resource industries, what kinds of occupations, and what regions of the country were most affected by the job loss?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I would say to the hon. member that if he had read the second page of the statistical survey, he would have found the answer there. What they did point out was the jobs were lost primarily in the goods producing service industries, and were primarily in the province of Ontario. That is on page 3 or 4 of the labour force survey that was issued two days ago.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER

MR. BAKER (NEPEAN-CARLETON)—LENGTH OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I hesitate to rise on a point of order, but I feel I must in view of what occurred just a few moments ago in the question period when the hon. member for Kitchener (Mr. Lang) directed a question to the Secretary of State (Mr. Fox). The hon. member can deny it if he wishes, and if he does I will have to accept what he says, but that was obviously a planted question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!