

*Oral Questions*

Will the government change the definition of "just cause" today?

[English]

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, if I understood the hon. member correctly, she said she was proud to have delayed Bill C-21 for over a year, therefore denying benefits to the unemployed at that time.

[Translation]

On the specific question, it is quite obvious that if opposition members read the finance minister's economic statement, besides having listened to it off and on, they would of course realize that there is no change with respect to sexual harassment. On the contrary, the situation is the same before, during and after the statement.

[English]

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. It follows up on a question by my colleague, the hon. member for Hamilton East.

It concerns his colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration who yesterday, when asked about his plan to force women to put up with sexual harassment on the job by effectively taking away the possibility of UIC, said that these people have to pay their way. He stated: "These people want to spend the winter in Florida."

Did the Deputy Prime Minister agree with the Minister of Employment and Immigration when he said that, and if not, what action will the Deputy Prime Minister take against the Minister of Employment and Immigration?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration clearly indicated in this House yesterday that people who quit their jobs for causes such as sexual harassment are still entitled, after the economic statement as they were before, to UI benefits. The situation has not changed and we do not expect it to change.

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister who is very selective in the things that he quotes with regard to the economy. He knows full well that when he referred to the Leader of the Opposition, unemployment was at 7.4 per cent and growth was at 3.9 per cent.

I want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he has the guts to stand in his place and indicate to the people of my district who have an unemployment rate of 20.9 per cent, what he is going to do for those individuals in that disadvantaged region of the country. What programs is he going to put in place to get them back to work, or is he going to continue to kiss up to the multinational corporations?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, it is quite obvious that this member not only condones the abuse of the UI system but is encouraging it and promoting it. That is exactly the purport of his question.

What are we doing? In my statement I indicated that we were going ahead with a microwave landing system. That happens to affect an important organization in his district. It will create jobs and economic activity. It is an industry of the future.

The adjustment from coal mining and the other industries that are becoming outdated, under the training program—

**Mr. Dingwall:** You are on dope.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The hon. member suggests that I am on dope.

**Some hon. members:** Withdraw.

**Some hon. members:** Order, order.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I did not hear. The hon. minister may conclude.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Madam Speaker, in a very eloquent speech by his colleague, he praised the federal government for the actions that we were taking on the infrastructure and the improvement of the airport system, particularly the microwave landing system which is going to have an effect on his particular region.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.