

Inquiries of the Ministry

knows that the opposition has offered to co-operate on the government organization bill provided the House of Commons is given the final word. Once that is done the Prime Minister can proceed as fast as he is able to.

Mr. Trudeau: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is the right hon. gentleman rising on the same point of order?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker. That bill has been before the House since the month of December, and I hardly call it co-operating when they stall the passage of the bill until well into late spring.

Mr. Baldwin: That's a lie.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I have been told that is a lie. I should like the hon. member to explain.

Mr. Baldwin: I will not withdraw. It is a lie.

Mr. Trudeau: I am not asking you to withdraw, I am asking you to explain what the lie is.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure what the exchange was between the hon. member and the Prime Minister.

Mr. Trudeau: I will tell you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member said it was a lie and that he will not withdraw. All I want to know is what the lie is.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever the hon. member for Peace River said did not come to the Speaker's ear. The right hon. gentleman tells me that the hon. member for Peace River used words which are clearly unparliamentary. I did not hear them so I am not sure whether he said them. It is difficult for me to charge him with having uttered certain words when I did not hear them.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister charged the opposition with certain tactics. The charge is not correct and I said that was a lie. That was the statement I made.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Peace River knows as well as I that he cannot say that. The hon. member holds a very responsible position in the House and I think he has to accept that responsibility. I would say there is a very heavy onus on him to respect the rules and traditions of the House. I should think that the hon. member for Peace River would want to take that into account and perhaps say that the words he used went beyond his thought. The hon. member knows that the word "lie" cannot be used. The matter is as simple as that. If a member of this House who has the responsibility held by the hon. member for Peace River is allowed to use such language, I am not sure whether there is any purpose in going on at all.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I shall withdraw the word and substitute the words "terminological inexactitude".

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member. I was sure he would appreciate the position. The words used now are

[Mr. Baldwin.]

much better so far as the Chair is concerned and the Standing Orders and the traditions of the House. I have recognized the hon. member for Winnipeg North. I realize there are a number of supplementary questions and if hon. members will be patient they will be recognized in due course.

PLANS TO PROVIDE WORK FOR THOSE UNEMPLOYED
MORE THAN SIX MONTHS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister along the lines to which he alluded in his reply to the Leader of the Official Opposition. In view of the fact that the number of people who have been employed for six months or more has risen from 78,000 in April of last year to 152,000 in April of 1971, an increase of almost 100 per cent, is the government giving consideration to new plans in order to find work for these people who are really suffering as a result of the government's policies of restraint?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to what the Minister of Finance and myself said yesterday.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

SIGNING OF AGREEMENT RESPECTING DEVELOPMENT
OF EASTERN QUEBEC

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Joliette wishes to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, along the same line, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether he would elaborate on the statement made by the Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs the day before yesterday to the effect that for the past 10 months he had been waiting for the federal government's signature concerning the development program for eastern Quebec?

Because of the unemployment situation now prevailing in Quebec, would the Prime Minister tell the House when the government will be in a position to sign this agreement which might help improve the situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): If the hon. member would specify which agreement, Mr. Speaker, I shall attempt to give an answer but I am not aware of what he is talking about.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, may I say that I refer to the eastern Quebec development program, cost of which has initially been established at \$250 million and which, according to the Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs would now reach \$350 million. Apparently they are still awaiting the signature of the federal government.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there is certainly a mistake. An agreement does exist providing for an eastern Quebec development program, which we signed a little over two