

*Oral Questions*

of taking new economic action or of introducing a new budget until next fall, and since there are more than 350 Canadians looking for each and every available job, does the Government of Canada not care a little for the people of Canada? Will it not bring in something before we recess which will begin to turn the economy around?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I am glad the hon. member admitted that his party opposed the Alaska gas pipeline. At that time its members did not see the potential in it that we saw. But today, now that it is deferred, the hon. member is trying to reverse history. That is not possible.

**Mr. Clark:** It was just done in Saskatchewan.

**Mr. MacEachen:** The hon. member asked whether there were any other alternatives which the government had in mind. I refer to the very full answer given on this point yesterday by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources which can be found at page 16818 of *Hansard*. I should like to read it, but perhaps it would be easier for the hon. member to read it.

## RESULTS OF POLL TAKEN IN QUEBEC

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, lovers' quarrels like the one we have just witnessed are always a bit messy.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Beatty:** My question is also directed to the Minister of Finance. In March the Minister of Justice refused to release to the House a copy of the secret poll commissioned by the Canadian Unity Information Office in Quebec in January. I now have a copy of the poll, and I want to ask the Minister of Finance whether he is aware of the poll's findings that, by a ratio of some three to one, Quebecers interviewed were dissatisfied with federal economic policies? Is he prepared to follow the recommendation made in the poll that the federal government should reassess its economic policies as a result of the high level of dissatisfaction among Quebecers?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** No, Madam Speaker, I am not aware of these particular results. I guess I take the view which was recently expressed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that sometimes polls are very shallow and ought not to be taken very seriously.

## REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BUDGET AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEASURES

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, seeing that it was the Government of Canada which commissioned the poll, does the minister also dismiss cavalierly the finding of the poll that, by a ratio of some four to one, Quebecers feel that the government should be turning its highest priority into job creation and away from inflation?

Could the minister tell the House whether in light of that finding in Quebec by this government-commissioned poll, paid for by the taxpayers of Canada, the government is prepared to scrap the federal budget and bring in new measures designed to get Canadians back to work?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, if the hon. member is suggesting, based upon a poll, that we ought to shift a so-called concern for inflation to a concern for unemployment, the basic concern of the government is for jobs, the basic concern is to provide more jobs, and the basic concern is to reduce unemployment. That is the main purpose of the economic policy of the Government of Canada. I assure him that there is no need to make a shift because the priority has always been there, namely, jobs and growth. We understand that it will be impossible to provide the number of jobs which are required in the country unless we get inflation under better control.

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[*Translation*]

## POLLS

QUEBEC OPINION IN FAVOUR OF JOB-CREATION MEASURES—  
INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER HAS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, I shall, if I may, direct my question to the Minister of Justice, since he is responsible for the Canadian Unity Information Office and recommended this poll be taken. Considering the fact that the poll clearly shows the dissatisfaction of Quebecers, and that Quebecers are, of course, demanding positive action to promote job creation instead of maintaining this anti-inflation philosophy, could the minister tell us whether he has made any recommendations and to whom, since the Minister of Finance just said he was not aware of the poll?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development):** Madam Speaker, as the hon. member is aware, polls have been used by the government in developing policy. And, as the Minister of Finance said earlier, the issue of inflation is very closely related to the question of job creation, especially since yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition said, as reported in *La Presse*, that he entirely agreed with the fight against inflation and that he would support the policies of Governor Bouey even more strongly than the present Minister of Finance is doing.

## GOVERNMENT REACTION TO POLL TAKEN IN QUEBEC

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, I would rather not repeat the remarks made earlier by the Leader of the New Democratic Party with respect to the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance knows perfectly well that the