

Mr. Blaikie: Sinc Stevens is clapping at the fact that the Liberals might be the Government again.

Mr. Stevens: Oh, no!

Mr. Blaikie: I think he must have misunderstood me. In any event, there are great changes to be made and I think the Government ought to show a little leadership. Instead of being so self-righteous about it, why do they not do what the Hon. Member for Yukon suggested, and what I and other Members have suggested many times, and get on with implementing the recommendations of the Special Committee on Standing Orders and Procedure? Then we could take the Government seriously.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair would like to thank all Hon. Members who participated for their comments. They have obviously been well motivated and thoughtful.

I wonder if we might now, since it is one o'clock, take up the rest of Routine Proceedings at two o'clock today?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock later this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, I have had consultations with the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). I cannot see anyone from the NDP present at this stage but I suppose they will not object. We propose to suspend Routine Proceedings until after the third speaker on the motion to be debated on this Opposition Day. That will give us time to continue with the debate we began before the lunch hour. If you seek unanimous consent to postpone Routine Proceedings until after the third speaker has spoken on the Orders of the Day today, I think it would be agreeable to us and to the other Party.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, that is quite agreeable. I hope that each of the three speakers will take their full 20 minutes.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 62—INTEREST RATES

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) we will have to

Supply

seek consent for the motion to be moved by the Hon. Member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens).

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent that the Hon. Member for York-Peel will move for the Hon. Member for St. John's West?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (for Mr. Crosbie) moved:

That whereas the depreciating dollar and increasing unemployment, inflation and interest rates endanger economic recovery and undermine job creation through their damaging effects upon agriculture, small business and business investment, this House regrets the government's failure to include in its February 15th Budget, or to adopt at any subsequent date, policies to provide the necessary conditions for a reduction in interest rates and the strengthening of the Canadian dollar and calls for the immediate resignation of the government.

• (1410)

He said: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) hopes to join this debate as it proceeds. Unfortunately, he is detained at a luncheon meeting and has been unable to finish his speech to get here in time to join in the debate.

I would hope in discussing the motion now before us that we can do so in a comparatively non-partisan way. We are actually dealing with something that is a terrible tragedy not only for hundreds of thousands but for about two million Canadians. I am, of course, referring to our unemployed, our jobless. It is fine to talk about those big figures, but let us look at what has happened since 1980. I think we sometimes forget the human aspect when we talk about raw unemployment figures. If we go from town to town across Canada we find that Saint John, for example, had an unemployed population in 1980 of 4,000. There are now 7,000 people unemployed; 3,000 more are now out of work in Saint John.

In Montreal we find 74,000 more out of work today than in 1980, that figure having risen from 124,000 to 198,000 currently. To express that in percentage terms, it means 13.7 per cent of the work force in Montreal have no jobs. They are out of work.

However, if you look at the Ottawa-Hull area, you find a startlingly different picture, Mr. Speaker. While unemployment has gone up, it has gone up only 3,000, from 29,000 to 32,000. I suggest that is one of the problems we live with at the federal Government level. People, certainly the bureaucracy in an area such as Ottawa, get isolated. They do not, as people in other towns do, sense the magnitude of the unemployment that is occurring in Canada.

Sudbury has had a 100 per cent jump in unemployment, from 5,000 persons to 10,000, since 1980. Toronto, usually looked upon as a comparatively full employment area, has seen 75,000 people added to its unemployed list since 1980. In Toronto there are now 156,000 unemployed. Hamilton has seen its unemployment almost double from 17,000 persons to 33,000 currently. I emphasize to all Members, even to the socialistic Members because they seem to care so little for these things, that this jobless situation has occurred in just