

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

unauthorized disclosure, the source of which is not yet known. Statistics Canada is investigating this matter.

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**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—REQUEST FOR EARLY DEBATE TO EXPRESS CANADIAN POSITION**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** I have a question for the Prime Minister. Is the government planning in the very near future to have a debate in the House in which all members can express their strong and united opposition to the economic pressure being brought to bear on Canada by the United States government, aimed at making this country no more than a supplier of power and raw materials for use by United States industry, and the determination of the people of Canada that this country will remain strong economically and not become an economic vassal of the United States?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in answering the hon. member's question I can say yes to the first part of it. An occasion will certainly be provided to all members of the House to say that in the debate tonight, but I cannot guarantee that all members will want to say that.

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**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO REDUCE ECONOMIC DISPARITY BETWEEN ATLANTIC PROVINCES AND REST OF CANADA**

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** I wish to address a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In light of the fact that seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in the Atlantic provinces have increased from May to the present time, regularly throughout the summer, and at a higher rate than in any other part of Canada, and as the economic disparity between the Atlantic provinces and the rest of Canada is increasing, at least measured in these terms, is the minister giving consideration to a special review of the activities of his department which are designed to reduce the economic disparity between the Atlantic provinces and other parts of Canada?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the figures quoted by my hon. friend are incorrect. When you compare the unemployment rate for the Maritime provinces with the average rate in Canada, going back a few years, you see that the relative rate of unemployment is lower, although the absolute rate has increased since the month of May.

[English]

**Mr. MacLean:** Am I to understand that the minister is satisfied with the rate of unemployment in the Maritime provinces?

[Mr. Pepin.]

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** That is not what I said.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is debate.

**ACTION ON ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING FUNDY TIDAL POWER**

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** My question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. What action is the minister's department taking in connection with the recommendation of the Atlantic Development Council with regard to his department becoming involved with Fundy tidal power as this would materially assist in decreasing the rate of unemployment in the Atlantic provinces?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I think that I answered that question the day before yesterday by saying that we have received two or three reports, namely those of the Science Council and APEC, besides the one just referred to by the hon. member and which we are now considering. We hope to be in a position to make very soon a statement on the matter.

[English]

**SUGGESTED DESIGNATION OF PRAIRIE PROVINCES AS SPECIAL REGION**

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the unemployment figures on the prairies, which show that the adjusted rate again increased this month, can the minister say whether he is contemplating any changes regarding the prairie region or contemplating designating the region so that the prairie provinces will benefit under the Regional Development Incentives Act?

**Mr. Stanfield:** Let's designate the whole country.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the public has learned through newspapers and other media that the over-all unemployment rate had increased in Canada, in other words the rate is higher in all regions. This is not a problem of regional disparity but rather of general economy and the matter will be discussed tonight when each and every one will have an opportunity to express his opinion.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Oxford. Order, please. Perhaps the Chair should recognize the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Oxford.

**Mr. Nystrom:** In view of the statement the minister has just made that this is not a regional problem, does the minister feel that his department can be successful in eliminating regional disparities if we do not have full employment in the country?