

Oral Questions

Mr. Lalonde: The question of unemployment has been addressed by this Government through the addition of over \$1 billion of further expenditures in the last few months to the Government's expenditure plans in order to compensate for some of the difficulties being faced by hundreds of thousands of Canadians. The provincial Governments have agreed to cooperate with the federal Government in that regard. What we have seen in the meantime has been systematic dragging of feet and filibustering on the part of the Opposition on numerous Bills that have been before this House to deal with the crisis the country is facing.

Mr. Mitges: What Bills?

Miss MacDonald: Name one.

Mr. Lalonde: I would urge the Leader of the Opposition to examine the actions of his own Party and the lack of action by his own Party before he starts to throw any rocks.

INQUIRY RESPECTING DATE OF BUDGET PRESENTATION

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, let me direct this question also to the only Minister who is awake over there and who has just come back, by the way, from the OECD meeting where he had to defend Canada's performance of being twenty-fourth out of 24 in economic growth; where he had to defend the policies of this Government which alone have dragged this country below the standards of other comparable countries.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: The Minister has talked about delay in debate. He knows there is a 300-page tax bill which the Government has introduced for one day's debate only. If he wants to bring it forward, let him bring it forward. We will debate it. If he wants to have a deal on it, delete 15 or 20 of the provisions which will restrict expansion in this country and we will give it very quick passage. Let him do that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I am really sorry, by I have to remind the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition that he should not be making a speech but rather asking a question.

Mr. Nielsen: Remind the Cabinet, too.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Government, the Opposition has to take more time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance on what date he intends to bring in a budget?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have indicated that I was hoping to bring in a budget early in the new year. I indicated also that to me this meant preferably before the beginning of the new fiscal year, that is, before April 1. However, I also indicated that it was very

important that the House deal with all the legislation resulting from budgets and budgetary measures that go back two years on which the Opposition has been dragging its feet and filibustering.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lalonde: The reason the Income Tax Bill has not been considered further, Madam Speaker, is because the Opposition has refused to deal with other urgent Bills having to do with six and five. That is why that Bill has not yet been brought before this House for debate more frequently. We are waiting for the Opposition to deal with the most urgent Bills also—

Mr. Nielsen: We didn't see them for two years.

Mr. Lalonde: —and the Income Tax Bill will then be brought forward for debate.

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TRADE

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER REPORT ON TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. The public perception of the Prime Minister's trip to the Pacific Rim is that it enhanced his reputation as an international globe trotter and fun kind of guy, to quote one news report. Since the trip was advertised as a diplomatic trade mission to the fastest growing economic area of the world, what sales report can the Prime Minister make to the nation? What contracts did he sign? What new trade agreements did he negotiate? And what specific commitments did he win abroad that will create jobs here at home?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: He is awake. Does that mean you are going to speak?

Mr. Shields: Let's hear from the violins now.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Wouldn't you like to have an ovation like that, Joe?

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, first I want to thank the House for making me so welcome on my return. I want to inform the Hon. Member that I did not sign any trade agreements. It was not my intention to do so. I think that the tour was mainly conceived to make Canadians and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations aware of the vast trading possibilities potential between us. In that sense, I think