

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies) has filed the notice required by Standing Order 26. He has also been kind enough to leave with me some written material in support of the suggestion that an emergency debate be allowed relative to the matter to which he has just alluded. I want to assure the hon. member that I have studied very seriously his motion as well as his representations in support of it.

To be sure, the current international monetary problem constitutes a serious matter which concerns all members of this House. It is one which I am sure many members of the House would like to have an opportunity to discuss. This is a consideration which the Chair must take into account, along with a number of other factors outlined in section 16 of Standing Order 26 and in numerous relevant precedents.

The Standing Order stresses that the matter proposed for discussion must relate to a genuine emergency calling for immediate and urgent consideration. My interpretation of the Standing Order is that it is intended to provide an opportunity not just for a special debate of important matters which may be of general interest to members but for an emergency debate required by sudden circumstances.

Since the problem proposed for discussion by the hon. member for Don Valley is in the nature of a continuing difficulty, as evidenced by a series of questions asked by the hon. member himself over a period of time, I would hesitate very much to rule that Standing Order 26 is applicable so as to set aside the business of the House today for an emergency debate. In view of the importance of this problem and the concern which it evokes, hon. members would hope, I am sure, that it might be possible to discuss this matter in some other way than under the provisions of Standing Order 26.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD[*English*]**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT PLANS TO COMBAT
UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister if he can now indicate to the House whether he has directed a review of the government's economic policy in light of today's very disturbing unemployment figures and last week's disturbing cost of living figures?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did not issue any special directive on that. There is a planning procedure whereby periodically and frequently the Minister of Finance reports to cabinet and cabinet discusses these matters so important to the Canadian people.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. I should like to ask the right hon. gentleman whether he is not yet

[Mr. Gillies.]

persuaded to examine some means of dealing with inflation other than the means which create high interest rates and have a very dampening effect upon the creating of jobs in the country, particularly slow growth regions of the country, now that interest rates are mounting very rapidly?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, very many other measures have been examined. Indeed, several have been brought in through the budget and other measures.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. It is surely apparent that these methods have not been effective. I should like to ask the Prime Minister, with something over half a million Canadians unemployed in the month of June, the summer, what the forecasts are with regard to employment in the fall and winter and very specifically what plans the government has ready with regard to respective fall and winter unemployment and when such plans will be discussed with the provinces?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I repeat, such discussions and plans are under continuous consideration by the cabinet. I hardly agree with the premises of the Leader of the Opposition when he says that the government is dampening the growth of the economy. When you have an increase of 528,000 jobs on a year over year basis, this is hardly a dampened economy, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]**SUGGESTED CONFERENCE ON QUEBEC ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister.

Considering the real and significant increase in unemployment, especially in Quebec, does the Prime Minister intend, in view of a decentralizing policy that appears to have become his own and failing the holding of a conference on priorities for Canada, to call an Ottawa-Quebec conference where economic opportunities for Quebec could be analysed?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is necessary to hold such a conference. There are continuous exchanges between the premier of Quebec and the Prime Minister of Canada, between his cabinet ministers and federal ministers on various subjects, from finance through trade to regional expansion. Therefore, I do not intend to hold a particular conference, Mr. Speaker, but to continue our good relationships that have served for at least two years to rebuild and strengthen the Quebec economy.

● (1450)

[*English*]**JOB CREATING PROGRAMS—SUGGESTED CONFERENCE
ON POSITION OF NEWFOUNDLAND—GOVERNMENT
POSITION**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the