

*Oral Questions*

This House urges the Minister of Transport and the Minister of the Environment to proceed to Vancouver forthwith, there to meet with the members of the public concerned to discuss the expropriation proceedings and procedures and the environmental impact of the proposed runway.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimity so the motion cannot be put.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

## GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING IMMEDIATE RELIEF FROM RISING PRICES—UNEMPLOYMENT TARGET FOR 1973

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister arising out of a statement by the Minister of Finance yesterday that he saw no immediate relief from rising prices. I should like to ask the right hon. gentleman whether that represents the policy and attitude of his government, whether the policy of the government is to accept the inevitability of continued increases in prices, and specifically whether this means that the committee the government proposes to set up in respect of food prices is a charade?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker. The words "immediate relief" I take it were spoken by the minister yesterday and they mean exactly that. The government is not on the verge of announcing price and wage controls, but we have stated repeatedly that it is something for which we have made contingency plans and which we are prepared to envisage when the time comes. Perhaps this committee which is to be set up by the House of Commons will indicate to us its views on that timing.

• (1110)

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, if the government listens to that committee it will be the first time it has listened to views on economic policy except from its own advisers. In view of the statement made by the Minister of Finance that any suggestion that the jobless rate will remain at about 6 per cent is pessimistic, would the Prime Minister indicate to the House what the government's target is in respect of lowering unemployment during 1973?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, it is usual in the speech on the budget for the Minister of Finance to bring more precision to the kind of statement just quoted by the Leader of the Opposition. Perhaps he would wait until that time to hear it.

[Mr. Reynolds.]

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the Prime Minister's statement, can I have his assurance that in the budget presentation the Minister of Finance will provide the House with a precise statement of the government's objectives with regard to the lowering of unemployment during the year, a precise statement in terms of the percentage that the government hopes and expects to achieve?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot really say how precise it will be. I believe that the Minister of Finance indicated his view on the importance of statistics the other day in answer to a question by the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham.

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is addressed to the Prime Minister. A few moments ago in reply to the Leader of the Opposition the Prime Minister said the government would be prepared to introduce price and wage controls when the time comes. Would he advise the House how much higher, in his opinion, inflation would have to rise before that time would come?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I think our position on that is not dissimilar to that of the Leader of the Opposition who has talked about price and wage controls if necessary, but not necessarily.

**Mr. Hees:** As the Prime Minister's government is responsible for bringing in such controls when the time does come, does he not think he has a responsibility to advise the country when he thinks inflation will be high enough to justify it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Peace River.

## DATE OF FORTHCOMING BUDGET

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the Prime Minister indicated that something hangs upon the budget, would he now indicate exactly when the budget will be presented?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I do not remember what I said that hung on the budget—probably the life of the government.

**Mr. Stanfield:** You did not say that but it is probably true.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I cannot give an exact date, but the Minister of Finance has discussed dates in cabinet and I feel that very shortly he will be able to make that date public.

**Mr. Hellyer:** A supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for a last supplementary, but I would hope that we would not become involved today in the same situation as yesterday when every frontbencher asked a supplementary at the expense, I suggest, of other hon. members. The hon. member for Trinity may ask a supplementary and then we will go to the hon. member for York South.