

*Oral Questions*

those kinds of examinations between the two. If there were any problem related to actual safety we would, of course, take action.

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**LABOUR CONDITIONS**

## UNEMPLOYMENT—DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S ADVICE

**Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. I am one of the millions of Canadians who took an interest in and watched the Liberal leadership convention this past weekend. Without doubt it was a time of emotion, elation, and foofaraw. If I could say a little bit, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, today it is coming down from the mountain into the valley of darkness, to the reality of what is going on.

At the very same time that the convention was going on, the Community Information Centre in Toronto was receiving more calls than ever from people who have no jobs and no finances. At the same time 1,460,000 Canadians are without a job. I do not believe any of them were at the convention. What is the Deputy Prime Minister going to advise the new Liberal leader on how to solve that problem?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked a question that has more to do with the internal operations of the Liberal Party than it has to do with what ought to be asked in Question Period. Because he does raise a very important matter, namely, unemployment, I would refer him to the numerous answers which have been given by the Minister of Finance on this question, not only today but in previous Question Periods, in which he has laid out policies which he has been following in attempting to reduce unemployment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Could the Hon. Member's supplementary be of a more precise nature?

## LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN SASKATCHEWAN

**Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, the reality of Canadian life is that there are 1.5 million unemployed people. What went on last weekend did not address that question. I would like to ask what the Government plans to do to address that question. In Saskatoon this week—

**Mr. Speaker:** With all due respect to the Hon. Member, questions in Question Period should be such that they can be answered in the relatively brief time constraints available. The Chair has difficulty. When a question like that is answered, how does one allocate time to the reply? It is very difficult for the Chair to be fair and reasonable under such circumstances. Will the Hon. Member please ask a more specific question?

**Mr. Ogle:** Mr. Speaker, there was a 70 per cent increase in the number of unemployed in Saskatchewan from April, 1982,

to May, 1984. What is the Government of Canada going to do to address that question?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that a Member from Saskatchewan would not be aware of what the Government has done. He will realize that the Province of Saskatchewan had the lowest level of unemployment and suffered the least from the recession in 1981 and 1982. I remind my hon. friend that as recently as a couple of weeks ago we announced an agreement in principle to construct an upgrader for heavy oil in Saskatchewan that will involve an investment of some \$3.2 billion, one of the largest single investments ever made in Saskatchewan. This was done thanks to the co-operation of the private sector, provincial Governments, and the federal Government. These are things that the federal Government has done. Since the Hon. Member is so interested in the Liberal Party I will add that we have elected, from Saskatchewan, an outstanding Indian representative who, I am sure, will bring to the attention of the Party and the Government the concerns of the people of Saskatchewan just as well as the Hon. Member.

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**NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

## PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH NATIVE DEVELOPMENT BANK

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Small Business. It is supplementary to the question of the Hon. Member for Athabasca concerning the Native Economic Development Fund. As the Minister knows, he instructed the board of directors of the Native Economic Development Fund to study the possibility and feasibility of using the \$345 million, or what remains of it, as the capitalization for a native economic development bank. That was in keeping with one of the recommendations of the special committee on Indian self-government. Will the Minister tell the House when we can expect a report from the board of directors on the feasibility of using this money in such a fashion, rather than in the way in which it is being used at the present time?

● (1500)

**Hon. David Smith (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, shortly after the board drew up its criteria for financing various proposals that would come to it, it established a subcommittee to look into that very point. I might say that the work done by the committee that the Hon. Member chaired has been very helpful in that regard. I understand that that subcommittee has more or less completed its report. I have not yet received it, but I expect to receive it shortly.