

reviewing its regional development programs in view of the failure of the regional development policy to create jobs?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the hon. member's statement, the answer is yes. The regional program is being reviewed. It is under constant review.

EFFECT OF MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICIES ON
UNEMPLOYMENT—POSSIBILITY OF NEW MEASURES TO
PROVIDE RELIEF

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): In view of the fact that unemployment in these regions, particularly the Atlantic region and certain other parts of the country, is increasing at a time when there should be a marked decline in the unemployment rate and in view of the fact this is a direct consequence of the monetary and fiscal policies currently being pursued by the government, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the government is taking into account the effect of monetary and fiscal policies on the economy, particularly in the Atlantic provinces, and whether new measures will be introduced to bring immediate relief to the situation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is yes. In deciding monetary and fiscal policies, we always take into account very especially the position of the underdeveloped parts of this country, particularly in the Atlantic provinces. However, the hon. member will have to await the budget and other measures the government will be introducing to obtain an answer to the second part of his question.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR PARDON FOR DR. MORGENTALER IN VIEW OF
SECOND ACQUITTAL BY JURY—SUGGESTION MINISTER ASK
QUEBEC NOT TO APPEAL

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Following the decision yesterday by a second jury dealing with facts and law similar to an earlier acquittal of Dr. Morgentaler on the charge of performing an illegal abortion, will the minister now reconsider his earlier decision and recommend to the cabinet that Dr. Morgentaler be given a full pardon on his earlier conviction?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I, of course have not had an opportunity to read either the direction to the jury or the proceedings in this case. However, I do not see the connection that relates this case to the previous conclusion in the courts.

Mr. Broadbent: The issue at stake is the continuation of the jury system as part of our democratic heritage. In that light, will the minister approach the Quebec minister of justice and urge him not to appeal yesterday's decision in order to protect the right to trial by jury, which has been a fundamental part of our democratic tradition in Canada?

Oral Questions

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I believe it remains very much a part of our tradition. The Supreme Court was very conscious of this when it referred to the importance of the jury in the previous judgment. I think it would be rather unusual for me to volunteer to give advice to the provincial attorney general. It is really within his jurisdiction to institute and continue proceedings to the point where he feels they are satisfactory.

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CRIMINAL CODE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR RETRIAL IF
APPELLATE COURT OVERTURNS JURY VERDICT

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): The minister is normally not so reluctant to give advice in other directions on other occasions. So that the issue of the right to trial by jury and the supremacy of that will remain, will the minister agree to amend the Criminal Code in such a way that courts of appeal do not have the right to simply superimpose their own views over those of a jury without at least the legal provision of a reference back to a jury for reconsideration?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am always happy to give further consideration to the question of whether the law as it is written best serves the purpose for which it is intended. It has been my impression that the Supreme Court, in dealing with the issue of that particular section, dealt very carefully with it. It was made quite clear that it is not the kind of section that would be used at all frequently. Indeed, one could put it more positively. It would only be used in very, very unusual circumstances. While I would be glad to look at whether that is a problem in terms of the operation of our jury system, my conclusion is that it would not be.

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ABORTION

PROPOSED PROVISION OF APPEAL FROM DECISION OF
HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that in our society even the most hardened criminal is granted the right to appeal, can the minister inform this House whether his department would consider setting up procedures by which the father or other interested parties could appeal the sentences meted out to the unborn child by abortion committees?