

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we have just listened to a great speech by the hon. member—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Let's hear a great answer.

Mr. Horner: I appreciate the response my former colleagues are giving me.

An hon. Member: Tell us about Edmonton.

Mr. Horner: It is obvious hon. members opposite do not want an answer; they think they know it all already. What I was about to say, if the official opposition is prepared to allow me to speak, was that we have listened to a great speech by the hon. member outlining the difficulties experienced by many areas of Canada with regard to employment. We have presented pieces of legislation.

I did go to the spokesman for that party, desirous of getting through another piece of legislation having to do with the Export Development Corporation. I was told I would not get ready passage for it because the official opposition would not approve it. I told them, "You will be blamed, then, for contributing to unemployment in Ontario."

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: The opposition did not seem to be concerned about the unemployed in Ontario at that particular time. The hon. member said, "You are going to get a rough time." I said, "You are going to get the blame." He was not worried then, and I do not see how the hon. member for Hamilton West can be worried now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alexander: I just want to say that that answer is baloney. The minister is abdicating his responsibility. Ministers over there have fiscal and monetary tools for dealing with this problem, but they have neither the guts nor the initiative to bring about some relief.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST MINISTER TRAVEL ONTARIO TO ASCERTAIN UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I direct this question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Given the fact that the industrial base of Ontario is being eroded, will the hon. gentleman assure me that he will at least travel throughout Ontario, and particularly to St. Catharines where unemployment is presently running at the rate of 12 per cent and over, in order to determine whether some relief might be forthcoming? Could the minister give us at least that assurance, or does he also take the position that we must live with one million unemployed?

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for inviting me to travel throughout Ontario to see what the situation is in some cases. I should say to him that I intended to do so, and have in fact already done so. I went to the Windsor area, not so long ago, and I intend to go to another part of Ontario within the next few weeks precisely to see, with some of my officials, what the situation is like, and find out whether our department should intervene as I believe it might in certain cases. I trust those things can be done in due course.

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POST OFFICE

POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING SINGLE POSTAL CODE FOR ALL NCC DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General.

Further to the memo the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs sent out with the April 1978 issue of its magazine *North* advising its readers that henceforth their new address will be: Les Terrasses de la Chaudière, North Tower, 6th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, when in fact that complex is located in Hull, Quebec, can the minister tell the House whether he intends to ask all departments to change their postal code so that the same can be used for all federal departments located in the national capital area, on the Quebec as well as the Ontario side, to spare us any more stupidities on the part of some thoughtless and narrow-minded civil servants in the face of reality, that is that Hull is an integral part of the capital of Canada?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I have already been made aware of that anomaly, for that is certainly what it is. I shall have to consult with the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, whose responsibility the national capital is, so that that anomaly can be corrected as soon as possible.

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● (1442)

[English]

HOUSING

REQUESTED EXTENSION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Given the fact that the construction industry, particularly housing, has been such an important factor in providing employment for Canadian citizens, and that we have over one million unemployed in Canada, would the minister indicate to