

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Howie:** There won't be a Liberal government here after the next election.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I am citing these facts to explain to the hon. member, who asked me a serious question, that we are going through these difficult circumstances because we have a world-wide recession which is affecting every industrialized country. It is unfortunate that is the case. Our duty is to do everything possible to bring Canada and the other countries out of this difficult recession. That is the main question which the hon. member has asked me and I have attempted to address it in a reasonable way.

## LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** My question is for the Minister of Finance. To repeat an earlier statement, he knows the unemployment statistics are at a 40-year high today. They would be tragic enough in themselves if they represented the end of a trend, or the last step. However, the fact is that our high figures today are simply one more step in a long march into a recessionary trend. The human tragedy and suffering resulting from these figures must be stopped. Today's official figures show that there are 1,228,000 unemployed Canadians. What is the minister's and the government's bottom line? How many people must be unemployed before the minister admits that there is a serious problem and, therefore, is prepared to bring in serious programs to combat the situation?

• (1225)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I have recognized for some considerable time that there is a serious economic problem.

**Mr. Riis:** Bottom line!

**Mr. MacEachen:** There is a serious unemployment problem, and there is a serious inflation problem.

**An hon. Member:** What are you doing about it?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Again and again I have stated that the cause of high unemployment, not only in Canada, but in many other countries that I have mentioned earlier, is because we are experiencing such high inflation. The only job creation program which makes any sense in the long term is a program which addresses inflation, not only in Canada but in every other country affected at the present time by high unemployment.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Scattered applause.

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT—ADVICE TO GRADUATING STUDENTS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, I could not agree more with the minister that we must have a program which fights inflation, but I suspect that the present monetary program is not doing that.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Riis:** There is no indication of it.

My question to the Minister of Finance deals with a very specific group of the figures that we received this morning, that is, concerning the youth of Canada. The youth of Canada are experiencing an unemployment rate of 18.4 per cent, officially. In Quebec it is 23 per cent, and in British Columbia it is 20 per cent. In the next two weeks, hundreds of thousands of college and university students will be flooding the job market in an attempt to find employment so that they can continue their education this fall. They will have troubles, but the most important sector comprises the hundreds of thousands of young Canadians graduating from secondary school who will be seeking jobs for the first time and will not be able to find any jobs.

My question is directed to the minister and to his colleagues. When you go to speak at the graduation ceremonies across this country in the next eight weeks, Mr. Minister, what good advice will you give the young people of Canada, which will provide some hope for the future?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I think that I would attempt to reason with the students of the universities, as I attempt to reason with the Members of Parliament and with the country, and try to establish the causes of our economic difficulties. I will also try to explain how the policies that we have put in place will help to get us out of these economic difficulties, and how mistaken they would be if they fell for the rather false proposals coming from the New Democratic Party. I would also go on to tell them—

**Mr. Deans:** Which one?

**Mr. MacEachen:**—that for 1982-83—

**Mr. Deans:** Which one are you talking about?

**Mr. MacEachen:**—\$1 billion will be put aside by Government of Canada to help the training needs of the young people of this country. As recently as March 11, the Minister of Employment and Immigration announced additional training initiatives, bringing the total up to \$1 billion for 1982-83. The government will support training initiatives for general industrial training, higher-skill institutional training, and will support the occupational growth and adjustment funds.

**Mr. Deans:** Where will they work after they finish their training?