

Inquiries of the Ministry

Justice to determine whether the executive of this country can usurp the law?

Mr. Baldwin: And advise the minister of the penalty for doing so. He may be in that jail in Saskatoon yet.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): A supplementary to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Since the government is following a course of action which assumes that clause 33 of Bill C-244 providing for the repeal of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act is now in effect, is the government considering following the same course of action with respect to clause 32 of that bill by paying out the \$100 million provided for transitional payments in that bill?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Until the money has actually been appropriated by Parliament it would be impossible to pay the \$100 million. The position with regard to clause 33 and the \$60 million is that if this amount had been paid to the Wheat Board it would have been necessary for them to hold it in trust pending the passage of the bill; it would have been strictly a bookkeeping entry.

Mr. Burton: Since the minister is responsible to Parliament for the actions of the board, may I inquire whether he has taken any steps to ask the Minister of Justice for a legal opinion as to the propriety of the government's failure to pay out these funds, in other words, respecting the failure of the Minister of Finance to pay them out? I ask this in view of the fact that the Wheat Board itself submitted a requisition to the government for the funds in question.

Mr. Lang: We have obtained an opinion on the question of the requirement to repay the money should it have been paid and should Bill C-244 subsequently be passed.

Mr. Woolliams: In view of the fact that the Minister of Justice, who is charged with the administration of justice, remains silent on such an important matter, may I ask him whether he intends to permit the executive to usurp the law of Canada or whether he is prepared to recommend to the cabinet that it be carried out?

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LABOUR CONDITIONS**UNEMPLOYMENT—MAJOR WINTER CONTINGENCY PLAN TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEM—PROJECTED LEVELS**

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): I have a question for the Prime Minister arising from the domestic unemployment problem in Canada. Can the right hon. gentleman indicate whether there is any major contingency plan in the hands of the government to fight the unemployment expected this winter, and whether such plan will be made public?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As in other matters, if there is any policy announcement to be made I will make it in due course.

• (3:10 p.m.)

Mr. Lundrigan: Can the Prime Minister indicate whether the government has made any projections of expected

[Mr. Woolliams.]

unemployment levels in Canada this year? Can he indicate whether the projections are expected to exceed one million Canadians, whether the government has set any goals for expected levels of unemployment and whether they will be made public?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot answer these statistical questions.

Mr. Lundrigan: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Lundrigan: Perhaps the Prime Minister did not understand my question. I asked him whether the government had made any projections and set any goals. That is not a very statistical question. Can the House and the country be made aware of the expected projections and goals?

CORNWALL—GOVERNMENT PLAN TO ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did the Prime Minister advise the people of Cornwall when he spoke there Saturday night of any plan that the government had to overcome the 20 per cent unemployment that now exists in that city? If so, would he outline what the plan is?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will try to see if a transcript of my remarks can be handed over to the hon. member.

Mr. Hees: I have seen the transcript and there is nothing there. I wondered whether I had missed something.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are running short of time. Perhaps the Chair might recognize the hon. member for Edmonton Centre who has been trying to ask a question for a little while.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**DESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF STATE TO ORGANIZE ECONOMIC SECRETARIAT**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Is the government considering designating a minister of state to organize an economic secretariat to co-ordinate all government departments affecting the the economy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Paproski: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member again, but I have been attempting to give other hon. members a chance to ask questions on other subjects. We have had so many supplementaries on this subject that we will soon be running short of time, but since