

mittee of this government at noon on the thirteenth that that ad was authorized to be put out for advertisement in the newspapers the following day.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR
INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE OF ROMANIA

Madam Speaker: I wish to call to the attention of the House the presence in our gallery of Mr. Alexandru Margaritescu, who is Minister of State for International Trade of Romania.

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[English]

THE BUDGET

JOB-CREATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. The minister knows that Canadians will face the largest number of pre-Christmas lay-offs in the history of the country since the Great Depression. He also knows from his own budget that unemployment is going to increase in 1982, 1983 and 1984. Considering that the government has decided to increase its advertising budget by some 50 per cent, up to some \$100 million, why could the government not find room in its budget for a single new job-creation program?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, there are within the fiscal plans proposed in the budget very substantial expenditures for job creation. The hon. member will realize that there is a Community Employment Program that will be in place this winter and will assist the unemployed. There is a sum of about \$300 million available for adjustment programs in this particular winter. If he had looked at the fiscal plan itself, he would have noticed, for example, that this year the expenditures in the budget of the economic development envelope have increased by about 30 per cent. So it is not true, as the hon. member alleges, that no attention has been paid to job creation. Substantial funds will be available this winter to assist the unemployed.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

COST OF LUNCHEON GIVEN FOR JOURNALISTS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I would say at the outset that the Minister of Finance knows there is a net reduction in the amount of stimulus going into the economy with this

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budget, not an increase. He should know that better than anyone else.

My question to the Prime Minister is on a different aspect of the government's alleged concern about the economy. I refer specifically to his urging Canadians to practice restraint. Yesterday the Minister of Finance entertained a dozen journalists, at public expense, at a luxury luncheon costing some \$2,000.

● (1425)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Two thousand dollars for one luncheon, I say to the Prime Minister, is the same amount a pensioner would spend all year on his or her food bill.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister does he not think that this extravagance at public expense totally undermines the government's appeal for restraint. If he does agree with that, what does he plan to do about it?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I am happy to answer that question on behalf of the Prime Minister, first of all because I know the facts. It is obvious that the hon. member does not know the facts; but the facts, as I know them, are quite unacceptable. It is true—

Some hon. Members: You're right!

Mr. Kempling: We agree!

Mr. MacEachen: It is true that yesterday I hosted a luncheon for a number of my colleagues and for a number of journalists.

Some hon. Members: Why?

Mr. MacEachen: I want to give the facts to the hon. member. Unfortunately, I did not select the menu, nor the site.

An hon. Member: Who did?

Mr. MacEachen: I do admit that I am highly embarrassed about the situation as it was much too lavish. When I returned to my office directly after the meal, I issued instructions that the bill be sent to me, because in no way would I ask the taxpayers to foot the bill for a lavish occasion which I had not anticipated.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, it is obvious to everyone on this side of the House, and to the people of Canada, that the minister would not be paying that bill if he had not been caught.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!