

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think that a study of the figures which were made public today will indicate to the hon. member that the rate of unemployment in the Maritimes has decreased more than anywhere else in Canada, by 1.4 per cent, which has been unheard of since the beginning of Confederation. So there has certainly been an effect.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[English]

Mr. McGrath: As a supplementary question, would the minister answer my original question?

Mr. Trudeau: He did.

Mr. McGrath: Precisely what steps is he taking to accelerate the programs under his department in the Atlantic provinces to create jobs in this period of record high unemployment?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, the department as a whole which has been established and the development rate tend precisely to create jobs in the Maritimes and in slowly developing areas. The departmental goal is—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Later:]

[English]

ACTION BY MINISTER TO BROADEN MANPOWER RETRAINING PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the fact that more than 10 per cent of the labour force in the Atlantic region is now unemployed and that many of these people have exhausted the training period for which they are eligible under the present regulations of the manpower retraining program, has the minister been in consultation with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration as well as with provincial ministers with a view to adjusting this program to take care of the very large number of hard-core unemployed who badly require this kind of retraining during this difficult period of unemployment?

[Later:]

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the officials of my department are in constant communication with those of the provincial governments and the Department of Manpower, to ensure that there is the largest possible number of jobs available and that the largest possible number of people are trained for new occupations.

[English]

Mr. McGrath: You are supposed to create jobs.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Yes, and I do.

[Mr. McGrath.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are running short of time.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I rise on a question of privilege. I think the question I put to the minister, as well as the previous question put by the hon. member for St. John's East, were very clear, but we are receiving absolutely no answers, just puffery, from the minister. Why won't he answer?

An hon. Member: Our people want more jobs.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Resign!

* * *

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

DISPUTE WITH UNION OVER WAGES AND JOB SECURITY—
INTERVENTION OF TOP MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State. In view of the impasse in negotiations between the CBC and a substantial percentage of its employees, which could have a serious effect on radio and television, would the minister discuss with CBC management the possibility and advisability of top management representatives of the CBC, able to make decisions, being asked to sit in on the negotiations with the union so that a settlement can be effected?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am in contact with the authorities of the CBC and we exchange information on all aspects of this issue.

* * *

[English]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It is of concern to all of us. In light of the fact that unemployment among young people in Hull is at nearly 50 per cent, and in light of the fact that we do not have a strong man in the cabinet now from the capital region—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sainte-Marie.

* * *

[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—SUGGESTED GRANTS TO PROVINCES
RATHER THAN LOANS

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I wish to direct to the Minister of Finance.