

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): If the hon. member could state a percentage which he considers to be full employment I might be able to answer the question.

Mr. Saltsman: Although 4 per cent is not considered full employment, when does the right hon. gentleman think Canada will reach an unemployment rate of 4 per cent?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether the question asked in those terms is in order.

Mr. Saltsman: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I realize that my question is somewhat unusual but it was put in that way in response to the question directed to me by the Prime Minister. I would hope the Prime Minister asked his question in all sincerity and that he will now be prepared to give an answer as to when the government anticipates we can return to a level of 4 per cent unemployment in Canada.

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[Translation]

HIGHWAYS

QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL AID TO COMPLETE
TRANS-CANADA ROUTE BETWEEN MONTMAGNY
AND NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

As the construction of the Trans-Canada Highway has not been completed in an important part of Quebec, namely that which is located between Montmagny and the New-Brunswick border, has the government of Canada received a request for financial help from the government of the province of Quebec for the purpose of completing the construction of this highway as soon as possible? If so, what was the government's reply?

[English]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know of no such request having been directed to me. I will consult with the Minister of Transport to ascertain whether he is aware of any such request.

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FINANCE

DATE OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGET—METHOD OF MAKING
INCOME TAX CHANGES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Last week I asked him whether by the end of April he could tell us when he intended to present his budget and whether that budget would include the income tax changes that have been forecast. Is he able to do so today?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker. We shall have to extend the end of April by a few days.

[Mr. Saltsman.]

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): The minister will not be here at the end of April. Can he tell us whether he intends to let us have this information next week, because there is a great deal of uncertainty in the country and a great deal of anticipation about what is going to happen?

Mr. Benson: I can assure the hon. member I shall make the House aware of these facts at the earliest possible opportunity.

[Translation]

PROVISION OF SPECIAL CREDITS FOR MUNICIPALITIES
IN BUDGET—DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I wish to direct to the hon. Minister of Finance.

Whereas the Canadian Municipal Union has asked the federal government to allot credits to municipal projects and whereas the budget is forthcoming, would the minister be in a position to advise whether special estimates will be allotted to such projects and whether there will be talks with the provinces in this regard?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it would not be proper for me to indicate what is going to be in the budget before the budget is presented.

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AIRCRAFT

STATUS OF ORDERS FOR LOCKHEED TRI-STAR AIRCRAFT

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Would the minister inform the House as to the present state of Air Canada's orders for the Lockheed Tri-Star aircraft, whether these aircraft will be equipped with Rolls-Royce RB-211 engines, what delay there will be in delivery, and the effect, if any, on subcontracts which will be let to the Canadian aircraft industry?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will try to answer the question briefly. The decision whether or not to proceed with the tri-jet program, that is, the decision by Lockheed to employ Rolls-Royce engines, has not yet been resolved. However, negotiations at the highest level are going on between the United States and Great Britain and the information, both public and private, is to the effect that these negotiations are progressing favourably. If agreement is reached between Lockheed and Rolls-Royce or between the two governments and the aircraft is therefore manufactured, it is anticipated that Air Canada will maintain its order for the tri-jets. This, of course, would result in the work already committed for in Canada in terms of subcontractors being carried on, as was the case before the Rolls-Royce troubles developed.