

Oral Questions

The answer I am giving him is that there is over \$2 billion of stimulus resulting from the budget of my predecessor last June and my economic statement of October 27. That stimulus of over \$2 billion is being injected into the economy at the present time. If my friend wants to show a little patience, he will see later this week other announcements which will have significant impact in terms of activity in the economy.

As far as additional stimulus which might be required is concerned, one way we can ensure the economy will recover faster is to ensure passage at the earliest possible opportunity by the House of the very important Income Tax Act that we started to consider this morning. In all my consultations across the country I have received one clear message, that the private sector wanted certainty and stability, and that it wanted this legislation to be implemented without further delay. I hope the Conservatives in particular will now see the light and realize that it is in the best interests of the economy to pass that legislation without delay.

Mr. Broadbent: I am sure the private sector, like other Canadians, wants certainty and stability, but it does not want the senility—

An Hon. Member: Then resign.

Mr. Broadbent: —or sclerosis that we are getting on the other side of the House.

REQUEST FOR MONEY INJECTION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, the Minister talked about the amount of money the Government is spending so far. I do not know why he would take pride in the fact that this money was injected when we lose, as I mentioned, 31,000 jobs a month in one small part of the country. Since it costs us some \$45 million a day in terms of lost revenue to the federal Government alone, with current levels of unemployment, this will mean that if the Government takes no further action in terms of stimulus for job creation for another two months, when we are supposed to get a budget, we will lose \$2.7 billion. I ask the Minister to inject some of that money into the economy now to provide jobs for people, so that they will be paying taxes instead of collecting unemployment insurance out of the country's financial resources.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I agree. It makes a lot of sense to inject additional funds into the Canadian economy at the present time. In fact, that is what the Government is doing. As I have said before, since last June, the Government has allocated more than \$2 billion in additional Government spending in our economy to help the unemployed. These funds are now being spent and have not yet been completely used up. The Minister of Employment and Immigration and other Ministers are doing everything they can to ensure that these funds will be used as quickly as possible by Canadian and especially by the private sector. In fact, I would ask the private sector in Canada to co-operate

with our efforts in this area, and I hope that we shall have the support of the Hon. Member for an expeditious passage through Parliament of the tax legislation now before the House, measures which should help get us on the way to economic recovery.

[*English*]

Mr. Broadbent: The Minister mentioned what his Government has been doing since last June. I can tell him that we have been losing thousands of jobs almost every day since then. In the past 16 months we have lost 450,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector alone.

SASKATCHEWAN WATER PIPELINE PROPOSAL

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I would like to take another specific project and see if I can at least get a commitment from the Minister on it. The communities of Regina and Moose Jaw need improved water facilities. Just prior to the weekend the Government of Saskatchewan announced a proposal to these cities to provide a pipeline which would, in fact, put an unbearable financial burden upon the municipalities, and under present circumstances they cannot abide by it. Since such a pipeline in these communities, where unemployment has risen by 55 per cent in the past year, would provide at least 400 jobs in the steel building part of the project alone, will the Minister of Finance show some financial long-run sense and some short-run compassion and offer these municipalities and the Province of Saskatchewan substantial amounts of federal funds to get the project under way now?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, it is a cruel judgment on 15 years of NDP Government that these towns are short of water at the present time.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: You are getting pretty low, Marc.

Mr. Lalonde: I urge the Hon. Leader of the NDP to listen to my answer as I listened politely to his question. If we look at the fiscal capacity of a town like Regina or Saskatoon and compare it with the fiscal capacities of most cities in the country, and if we take the fiscal capacity of the Government of Saskatchewan and compare it with the fiscal capacities of most provincial Governments in the country, I would urge my hon. friend to realize that those cities and the provincial Government of Saskatchewan are indeed in a very good fiscal position. They can go into the market and borrow money on their own for those public works projects, without necessarily having to wait for the "great white father" in Ottawa to come with money.

Discussions with my provincial colleagues, the Ministers of Finance, have shown in that respect that they have a greater sense of responsibility than the Leader of the New Democratic Party. They have recognized that they themselves also have a responsibility to participate in ensuring that all Governments