

given for their return to university or to a community college. At the very least we must ensure that such people get priority in hiring for NEED projects and other such endeavours, where it has been shown time and time again that they are not given consideration. Let us have justice for the middle-aged unemployed.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CENTRAL AMERICA—LACK OF CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, last week OXFAM of Canada and other government organizations invited an all-party committee to go to Nicaragua and Honduras. I had the honour to go for my Party, and the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East (Mr. Allmand) went for the Liberal Party. I want to say I am very disappointed that the Conservatives did not send anyone, in spite of the fact that this is one of the world's hot spots. I say to them that if they want to govern Canada they need to do more than just follow United States policy exactly. They have to understand these different areas.

I want to say further that we made some recommendations, and I urge them on the Government. One is to have a better listening post in Nicaragua. We talked to the Mexican ambassador. He said that for a year and a half he has not heard from the Canadian ambassador. Our ambassador cannot possibly cover Nicaragua adequately from Costa Rica.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is in Washington today. I hope he will bring to the attention of the American Government and the President that there are opportunities for peace in that region, that people can co-exist, with development aid and not with military aid, and that there cannot be a black and white view of the area. There must be co-existence and the right of different countries there to have their own forms of government. I think that is what we found out, and I suggest that my Conservative friends should read the report we presented.

Mr. McDermid: Who paid for your ticket?

Mr. Crosbie: Why did you come back?

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AIRPORTS

LESTER B. PEARSON—RENAMING OF TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Madam Speaker, I would ask the House of Commons to take note of the recent announcement by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of the intention to rename the Toronto International Airport the Lester B. Pearson International Airport. In this way we commemorate our former Prime Minister, who served as a

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member of this Chamber from 1948 to 1968 as the Member of Parliament for Algoma East.

Lester Pearson is well remembered by the senior members of this House as the most talented and able diplomat that Canada has ever produced who, during the late 1940s and 1950s, served as our Secretary of State for External Affairs, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957. However, many of us remember him best as the Prime Minister who, during his term of office from 1963 to 1968, gave us our distinctive Canadian flag, and many of our major social programs, such as the Canadian Pension Plan, guaranteed income supplement, the Canada Assistance Program, and medicare.

People in Algoma East remember him best as a man with the common touch who was concerned about and interested in the ordinary people of his constituency whom he represented so capably for almost 20 years. Mr. Pearson was especially interested in young people, and that is one reason why I am pleased to see this airport named after him. In this way the young of today and of the future will come to know the importance of this truly great Canadian, Lester B. Pearson.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

BANK OF CANADA

INCREASE IN BANK RATE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for St. John's West.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear! Leader!

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Thank you for your adulation.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: My question is for the Minister of Finance. The Minister will know that the bank rate has gone up today for about the eighth week in a row, to 10.06 per cent, which is an indication that the Bank of Canada and the Government want interest rates to rise.

My question is addressed to the Prime Minister—pardon me, the Minister of Finance. Coming events cast their shadow.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: Is the Government prepared to continue to permit interest rates to rise to prevent depreciation of the Canadian dollar, presumably because of our inflation? Is the Government prepared to permit interest rates to rise and, if so, what effect does the Minister feel that will have on the present recovery?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the bank rate indeed has gone up. It is not expected to have