

Inquiries of the Minister

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is argument, although very well justified in the circumstances. I am sorry that some of my hon. friends to the rear on the other side are a little upset. I can understand why. In view of the very alarming figures regarding unemployment published today, will the Prime Minister now invite the provinces to attend a conference regarding measures to combat winter unemployment on virtually an emergency basis? In light of these figures will the Prime Minister attempt to convene an immediate meeting with the provinces so that the federal government can confer with the provinces jointly on measures other than those the minister will propose tonight?

• (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the House knows that I have been attempting precisely this for several weeks and even months now. I have been attempting to get the provinces to sit down with us on an urgent basis to discuss the economic situation in Canada. I cannot at this time give a final report to the House on a date. As the House knows, we had agreed to a date in early December. I have since that time gone back to all the first ministers to obtain agreement on an earlier date, and I may have such an earlier date to announce to the House shortly. As of now I do not have the agreement of all provinces on any one earlier date, but I am still working on it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether, on the basis of the unemployment figures released today, he will not reopen this question with the provinces with a view to convening an immediate meeting on this subject?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I really do not see the point of the question. The provinces know about this and they, themselves, have been trying to get agreement on earlier dates. I agree that perhaps today's figures will make them even more anxious to do so. But when premiers say that they are free on certain dates and not on others, I take their word for it. I sometimes try to get them to adjust dates when that is possible. That is what I am trying to do. I am trying to get universal agreement on some earlier dates. I am telling the House that they have not yet all agreed, and I am trying to proceed by way of co-operation rather than by strong arm methods, which the House always recommends that I not use.

Mr. Baldwin: The Prime Minister should try that method here.

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE—POSSIBLE
ANNOUNCEMENT IN EMERGENCY DEBATE OF PROGRAM
TO CREATE JOBS THIS WINTER

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, some hon. members may know the answer to my question better than I do but, since the government House leader has not said anything about it and as I think the information should be on record, may I ask the Minister of Finance whether, when he introduces the motion this evening, he will place before Parliament a program to create jobs this winter?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should not like to comment on what I will say tonight at eight o'clock until I say it.

Mr. Lewis: Inasmuch as a general debate on the economy has been held before, may I ask the Minister of Finance whether the House will debate a program for work this winter or whether there will be merely a general debate on the outlook of the economy?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I think there has been agreement among the parties that one member from each party will have the opportunity an hour before I speak of seeing exactly what I am going to say in the House so as to be in a position to reply.

Mr. Baldwin: Will a doctor be present in the House when the minister speaks?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a further supplementary question of the Minister of Finance. Has he or have officials of his department discussed with representatives of the provinces whatever it is that he is going to say this evening?

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[Translation]

HEALTH

GRANT TO CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FACULTIES OF
MEDICINE—INQUIRY AS TO COMPLETION OF PROJECTS

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

On October 4 last, the minister stated that the government was now subsidizing two projects undertaken by the Canadian Association of Medical Schools, that is the cost of university training and the determination of the possible number of medical students. Could he tell us when such projects will come to an end?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, but I can ascertain and let the hon. member know.

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STATISTICS CANADA

UNAUTHORIZED EARLY DISCLOSURE OF
UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES TO MONTREAL "GAZETTE"

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to those asked of the Prime Minister. In light of the *Gazette's* scoop on the unemployment figures this morning, has the government initiated an inquiry into how this newspaper got the figures before the Prime Minister got them?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could answer this question. I am informed by Statistics Canada that copies of the document were given to the press slightly before eight o'clock this morning. I am told that there was an