

Oral Questions

paper plants during the third quarter of this year, which will contribute to worsening the already difficult situation of this branch of our economy, and considering this prospect follows on the heels of a general slowing down of the demand for the products of a Canadian industry which is very important for our economy in general and particularly for areas such as the Richmond riding where it is foremost in the economy, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte):

That the House now consider the problem of the paper pulp and paper industry and analyze the situation in depth, indicating what immediate action is required to protect this job-creating Canadian industry and, at the same time, support our economy which has been severely affected in various other sectors of its activities.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under Standing Order 43, this motion requires unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no unanimous consent; the motion cannot be presented.

● (1410)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED UNDER AGE 25—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO COUNTERACT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister arising out of the unemployment figures issued by Statistics Canada for the month of June, which indicate that there are some 401,000 Canadians under the age of 25 who were out of work in the month of June, some 351,000 seasonally adjusted, an increase of almost 60 per cent over the number of seasonally adjusted unemployed Canadians in June a year ago. In view of this and the discouraging and embittering effect that this will have upon Canadian youth, does the Prime Minister consider these figures acceptable to the government and justifiable in this country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do think that the Leader of the Opposition is correct to draw the attention of the House to this matter. I understand that the seasonally adjusted rate in June rose slightly to 7.2 per cent from 7.1 per cent, though in actual terms the rate was 6.8, down from 7.1 in May and 8.1 in April. I must tell the opposition that this does give the government great concern. The Minister of Finance referred to the question of unemployment in his budget, and I think we have realized that even after the economy begins to strengthen unemployment is liable to stay on for some time. We are taking consequent budgetary measures to deal with that.

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The unemployment figure for those under the age of 25 is 13.1 per cent, or seasonally adjusted 12.6 per cent. I should like to ask the Prime Minister why, in view of all the options the Minister of Finance and the government said they had in connection with the budget, the government chose the option that included, according to the Minister of Finance as reported in *Hansard* on July 11, "some short-term adverse economic effects as a result of the budget." In view of all the options the Minister of Finance said he had, I ask the Prime Minister why the government chose to fight inflation on the backs of the young people of this country.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that the Leader of the Opposition weighed his words when he said that the Minister of Finance made a choice, but perhaps that is a liberty one takes during the question period. I would remind the Leader of the Opposition that the Minister of Finance rejected the option of bringing in restrictive measures in the budget, even though the inflation danger is one which the opposition, quite rightly, expresses concern with from time to time. The Minister of Finance kept up the expansionary posture that was brought in in last fall's budget, one of a very large demand for an increase in the cash balance.

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STATISTICS CANADA

REASON FOR USE OF TERM "STUDENT DATA" WHEN REFERRING TO UNEMPLOYED UNDER AGE 25

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I wonder how the Prime Minister justifies these figures after seven years of being Prime Minister. May I direct a further supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I direct his attention to page 7 of the press release of Statistics Canada issued today, which makes reference to student data. It describes "student data" as Canadians under the age of 25. May I ask the minister whether the reference to these figures as "student data" is intended to give the impression that these percentages relate only to students, whereas in fact they refer to all Canadians under the age of 25? I should like to ask the minister whether he will take immediate steps to communicate to Statistics Canada that this can only give an unfortunately misleading impression to the people of this country.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I should be pleased to clarify that question with the Chief Statistician.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

NUMBER OF NEW JOBS TO BE CREATED IN 1975—REQUEST FOR MINISTER'S FORECAST AND REPORT BY PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, as today's labour force survey indicates that only 63,000 new jobs have been created in the first half of 1975,