

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT**GOVERNMENT POLICIES—QUEBEC UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, today, the Parliament of Canada has 64 Liberal Members for Quebec. For nearly 18 years the Liberal Party has been in power, but year after year, Quebecers have been saddled with a high unemployment rate. In my view, neither youth nor the workers of this country or this Province but the Liberal Members of the House are to blame. Their policies on energy, agriculture, industry and tourism have caused a great deal of harm.

Canadian citizens need a federal election, a new, Conservative Government that understands that specific policies are necessary for each region and each Province.

Mr. Speaker, the responsibility lies with the Liberal Members and their failure to speak up and take the initiative with respect to these problems. Voters want and need to make a new choice. After four years it is time for a federal election.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES—CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP URGED**

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, throughout the years Canada has permitted its influence and presence in the affairs of the Caribbean and Latin America to recede by failing to join the Organization of American States.

On July 9, 1982, I moved a motion in the House asking for Canadian membership in the Organization of American States, but did not receive unanimous consent. Subsequently the Chairman, the Hon. Member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras), of the Subcommittee on Canada's relations with Latin America, publicly recommended that Canada join the OAS. Indeed, even the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) indicated to the news media his disposition for full Canadian membership in the OAS.

● (1415)

The United States of America is a member of the OAS but is not a member of the OECS, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. In my view Canada's possible influence in the Grenada events was severely limited by its stubborn refusal to join, and lack of membership in, the Organization of American States. I therefore call upon the Government to review again its foreign policy with regard to Latin American nations and the Caribbean nations, and undertake to become a full member of the Organization of American States at the earliest opportunity.

*Oral Questions***ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

METRIC CONVERSION**COURT DECISION ON LEGALITY OF IMPERIAL AND METRIC MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Domm: —I would like to take this opportunity to address my question to the representative of the tiny group of fanatics or the dinosaurs, namely, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who is not present. In her absence I would direct my question to the Prime Minister. In light of the recent judgment in Toronto that both imperial and metric measurement are legal in Canada today, is it the intention of the Prime Minister to proceed as it is the intention of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who, at 1.30 today, said that the judgment will not stop the Government "from proceeding with its position on mandatory metric"? What is the position of the Government of Canada in light of the decision of the judge in the court in Toronto?

Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Berger: I thank the Hon. Member for his question. The Minister has had the opportunity to comment upon it and will obviously be saying more, now that she has arrived in the Chamber. However, I would remind the Hon. Member of the purpose behind the Government's position, that to allow both systems could lead to confusion and put the consumer in a weaker position when it comes to verifying price increases, which I understand is a concern of the Hon. Member and his Party. Further, the law and regulations were designed to ensure equity in the marketplace for the consumer and between retailers. I am sure that the Hon. Member supports these objectives.

Mr. Domm: I cannot say that I appreciate the answer representing the tiny group of fanatics in the Government who think that mandatory metric is the only route to go.

INQUIRY WHETHER APPEAL WILL BE LAUNCHED

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I will address my supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, or whomever. Given the fact that Judge William Ross described the methods of your inspectors as draconian, and your actions in enforcing poorly drafted regulations as devoid of any semblance of decency, fairness and natural justice, is it the intention of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to agree with the judge, or to ignore the judge and go through the process of appeal?