Oral Questions

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am not considering a fall budget. However, at the end of this month I will be having an analysis of the first quarter returns, and as much as is available on the second quarter returns, made to determine whether in the absence of private expenditure some additional public expenditure—additional to that announced by my colleague the other day—will be desirable for this coming winter.

POSSIBILITY OF OPPOSITION PARTIES ASSISTING IN DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY BUDGET

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Prime Minister. In view of the severe economic problems facing the country and the detrimental effect of simultaneous unemployment and stagnation and their consequences with regard to national unity and the future of confederation, it seems to many in Canada that a need exists to adopt the same kinds of attitudes and energies of a parliament facing a crisis comparable to fighting a war. Given the seriousness of the matter and the government's apparent inability to deal with the problems on its own, will the government consider inviting opposition parties to assist in the development of a national emergency budget?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has been meeting with groups across the country and trying to get from them constructive views on the past budget, their reaction to it and their suggested remedies for the economy in the time to come. I was at a meeting yesterday along with the Minister of Finance and other ministers. We would be very happy to receive proposals from the opposition parties as to what remedies they see at this time. Opposition members have occasion every day to make suggestions when they write preambles to their questions. They have occasions during budget debates. However, we would be very happy to read any written memorandum that the opposition, including the NDP, would like to send to me or to the Minister of Finance showing how we can combat inflation and unemployment.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of the Prime Minister, but he knows as well as I and every other hon. member in this House that unless the government indicates that it is prepared to take the opposition into its confidence, it is going to be business as usual in the House of Commons. The point I was trying to make is that the seriousness of the situation is such that I think the Prime Minister has to go beyond saying that he is prepared to listen to the opposition. That is what I wanted from the Prime Minister.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I can safely go much beyond my previous answer. The hon. member seems to suggest that he wants his party, at least—since he cannot be a spokesman for the other opposition parties—to be part of the decision making processes which lead up to budgets. I am prepared to contemplate that. That would mean, of course, an organic alliance between the NDP and the Liberal Party.

[Mr. Saltsman.]

Mr. Beatty: What else is new?

Mr. Trudeau: Feelers were sent out a few years ago, and the idea was rejected, but if the hon. member is sending out a feeler now, my response is positive. I would gladly sit down with the Leader of the NDP and see if there is any way our party could swallow up the NDP.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

INDUSTRY

FOOTWEAR—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT JOBS

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the finding of the anti-dumping tribunal that foreign imports are adversely affecting the Canadian shoe industry, can the minister state whether further measures are intended to protect Canadian jobs in this industry?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance and I have received the interim report of the anti-dumping tribunal and we propose to have public comments on this in the next few days.

[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

DATE COMMISSION WILL BE ESTABLISHED

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. Now that the human rights bill has received Royal Assent can the Prime Minister say when he anticipates setting up the Human Rights Commission so that the 4.5 million Canadian women who work in the home can have the Canada Pension Plan legislation reviewed by the commission to see if the injustice perpetrated by this government in refusing them the right to contribute voluntarily to the Canada Pension Plan can be remedied?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I hope to make recommendations to my colleagues as to the membership of the commission very shortly.

[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

POSSIBILITY OF GRANTING BONUS TO BILINGUAL EMPLOYEES IN QUEBEC

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister.