

integral part of the reason why jobs will be lost in that area, and that over-all Liberal Government policy during the last four years has forced provincial Governments across the country to take extraordinary steps in the face of the recession and the continued decline in the economy and job opportunities for Canadians.

REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Mr. Speaker, does the Minister understand that the potential of the proposed energy centre is 4,000 permanent jobs and 1,000 construction jobs? This represents an economic investment of \$1.2 billion. This kind of job opportunity or investment will not be there without a fundamental change in Liberal government policy. Is he considering in his upcoming budget, or in some other manner, changing the disincentives to investment and job creation that are inherent in Liberal policy today? Can we expect an opportunity for firms which want to invest, not just in this part of Ontario but across the whole industrial heartland of Canada?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the Hon. Member has said, I would remind him that in Ontario, for instance, the federal Government has co-operated quite extensively with the Ontario Government to try to address situations like the one to which my hon. friend is referring. Through the NEED Program, for instance, my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, has co-operated with his colleague in Toronto to try to take steps to create as many jobs as possible in Ontario.

● (1150)

As far as the argument of the Hon. Member concerning disincentive to investment is concerned, I would suggest that he get together with his colleagues in the New Democratic Party who have just been complaining today that we were providing too much incentive to the private sector, that we were giving too many incentives, that we were too generous to the private sector. I think, if we get on the one hand the socialists complaining that we are giving too much, and the Tories complaining that we are giving too little, we are probably moving in the right direction and we have the right balance.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

SUGGESTED USE FOR REVENUE DERIVED THROUGH CANADIAN OWNERSHIP CHARGE ON GAS AND OIL

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I would like to welcome back my old sparring partner by telling him that punching the bag and skipping the rope has been a little dull while he has been away.

Oral Questions

The Minister of National Health and Welfare wrote to me on October 6 and said:

Since single guaranteed income supplement recipients are not yet guaranteed an income adequate to meet their basic needs, the Government intends to increase their benefits as soon as resources permit.

My question to the Prime Minister is this: as the Government has \$600 million, which it has collected illegally by means of the Canadian ownership charge on gas and oil at the pumps since the Petrofina takeover was completed, and no new takeover is contemplated, could the Prime Minister advise the House why this \$600 million has not been used to start to increase these pensions to bring them up to a level where recipients can live in decency and reasonable comfort?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised at the suggestion of the Hon. Member. I know his heart is in the right place and that he shares our Minister's concern about single people of retirement age. But, if this money is held illegally by the Government, I am sure he would want us to give it back to those from whom it was taken illegally. I cannot follow his reasoning. Why would he want us to—

Mr. Mayer: Will you?

Mr. Trudeau: I do not follow his premise that it is held illegally, but I am prepared to hear argument from him on that.

PENSION ASSISTANCE URGED FOR ELDERLY

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said a week ago, in pinch-hitting for the Prime Minister on this question, that the Government would soon be announcing new plans for spending this tax and had no intention of cancelling this illegal tax, and that the money belonged to the Government, I am asking the Prime Minister, since the Government has this nest-egg of \$600 million—it took it illegally and it knows it, that money is there and these people desperately need it—why does the Government not use this money to increase these badly inadequate pensions which the Minister has said, quite rightly, are completely inadequate and which keep these pensioners below the poverty level.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I could only tell the Hon. Member that if we find a way to help the people for whom he shows such concern, we will not do it illegally, as he obviously is encouraging us to do.

Mr. Hees: I am asking you to do it legally.