

per cent, can the minister tell the House whether a significant proportion of the 371,000 unemployed in this category have had a prolonged attachment to the labour force prior to becoming unemployed, or whether there is a noticeable trend showing that people in this group work for eight weeks, then draw unemployment insurance for one year? Is there this trend?

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad, on a more appropriate occasion, to consider statistical trends after I have had the opportunity to look in more detail at the most recent information on which the hon. member bases his question.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO FUTURE OF PROGRAM

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a final supplementary question? As the unemployment problem affecting our youth is extremely severe, does the government still intend to scrap OFY, as indicated, even though by next summer we shall see many university and high school students seeking employment?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member might wait for decisions announced in the House instead of indulging in speculation based on newspaper reports.

**Mr. Trudeau:** What do you advise? Tell us.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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#### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

##### UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. As 734,000 people now are unemployed, which means a 40 per cent increase in year over year unemployment figures, how long will the government "hang tough", to quote the Prime Minister, before bringing in programs which will positively affect unemployment levels in Canada?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have no announcements, particularly with respect to the budget, to make at this time.

##### INFLATION—GOVERNMENT VIEW OF FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC PROBLEM

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Considering that the economy is operating much below capacity, some saying it is operating at only 82 per cent of capacity, is it still the view of the minister that the fundamental economic problem which we, as a country, face, is that people are trying to take more from the economy than the economy can produce?

#### Oral Questions

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, that remains of fundamental concern, particularly as by adding to the productivity costs of Canadian enterprises we may, over a time, price ourselves not only out of foreign markets but out of Canadian markets as well. A very significant contributing factor to the high level of unemployment in this particular quarter has been the reduction in the level of activity of some of our principal foreign markets, notably, the United States, Europe and Japan. We have noted with interest and concern some indication of a revival in these particular markets and recognize that the Canadian economy, being so strongly export-based, will continue to face difficulty until there is a strong recovery on the part of some of our customers.

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#### GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

##### SUGGESTION GOVERNMENT RECONSIDER MAJOR CUTBACKS IN PROGRAMS

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to a second minister, the President of the Treasury Board? My question has to do with reports to the effect that the minister contemplates cutbacks in federal programs. Has the minister calculated the net economic effect on the community of such cutbacks? By this I mean has he, or the government, subtracted the cost of unemployment insurance and welfare payments for newly unemployed civil servants from the savings to the treasury which would first accrue from cutbacks in those programs the minister is contemplating? If the government has made such studies, can the minister assure the House that it will think twice—

**Mr. Stanfield:** Sink twice!

**Mr. Broadbent:** —before embarking on such major cut-back programs?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I made no public statement on the expenditure program for next year. When the program is ready, it will be announced through the usual channels.

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#### AIR TRANSPORT

##### SUSPENSION OF TWO COMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES IN QUEBEC FOR USING FRENCH

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

In the context of problems raised by the use of French in air to ground communications, the Minister of Transport told the hon. member for Champlain in this House on November 21 that "the study in relation to the possible use of the French language in other areas of flight operations is going on" how then can the minister explain yesterday's suspension of two Quebec air service employees who presumably used the French language in their communications?