

Mr. Paproski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just about to reach that part of my question which is supplementary to the one raised by the hon. member for Selkirk. What steps does the Prime Minister intend to take to assist the unemployed to relocate? Can the Prime Minister tell the House where these surplus jobs can be found?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): There is a provision in the law providing for manpower mobility. If the hon. member would look up that provision he would find the answer to his question.

Mr. Paproski: Where are the jobs?

Mr. Trudeau: There is one in your seat.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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INCOME TAX ACT

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Would the minister advise the House when he intends to introduce the amendments which were promised by his predecessor on December 20 when he appeared before the Senate committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce on what was then Bill C-259 and promised to introduce amendments early in the new year?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in terms of this session it is still early in the new year. The Minister of State from Calgary South and myself are reviewing these propositions and the possibility of amendments on an active basis.

Mr. Hees: Obviously, what the minister's predecessor gave the Senators was a "con job". I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister of Finance whether he has yet acquired sufficient competence in his job to bring down a budget before Easter?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure whether I should rule that the question is hypothetical, but it is out of order on other counts.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—ACCURACY OF STATISTICS—NEW POLICIES TO PROVIDE JOBS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Since the right hon. gentleman has indicated that things are not as bad as the statistics would suggest, does he propose taking some action to change the manner by which Statistics Canada produces information, or does he have access to other figures which so far have not been made public?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. No such steps are required. But it is hoped that anyone who looks at statistics will look at them intelligently, even members of the opposition.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Since the Prime Minister expressed some dissatisfaction with current manpower policies, I wonder whether he or the minister is planning to introduce changes with respect to manpower legislation to in fact relate all these jobs which are supposedly available to Canadians who are presently out of work, numbering some three-quarters of a million?

Mr. Trudeau: I did get an admission from the leader of the New Democratic Party that there were some jobs available, and that is the answer to the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Egmont rises on a point of order. After we have disposed of the point of order the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, repeatedly this afternoon the Prime Minister has embellished his answers with irrelevant comments and not answered questions. He has made gratuitous references of one kind or another which are most unsuitable, and certainly improper under the rules of the House. I asked the Prime Minister a straightforward question with regard to manpower policy. I did not receive an answer, and I wonder if he would show me the courtesy of replying.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

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WELFARE

BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATION LIMITING PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ACTION

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister inform the House whether, in light of the provisions of the Canada Assistance Plan with respect to persons in need and the appeal provisions included in that legislation, he has studied Bill 49, introduced in the British Columbia legislature by welfare minister Gagliardi, which would give that minister absolute discretion to decide who should receive social assistance and would deprive welfare recipients of the right to appeal?

• (1440)

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member that I have just heard about this proposed legislation in British Columbia and am looking into the matter now. After I have had a chance to study it I would be pleased to report back to the hon. member.