

Mr. Lalonde: However, as the Hon. Member knows, such a decision is taken not by the Minister of Finance but by the Prime Minister.

As far as the question of lack of confidence is concerned, I suppose the biggest lack of confidence that there is in this country is the lack of confidence that the Conservatives are showing in the country itself and the lack of confidence that they show in themselves.

In effect, if my friend looks around, he will have to explain why it is that the European currencies have been losing ground against the U.S. dollar month after month over the last two years.

Mr. Crosbie: What about the Canadian dollar? You are the Canadian Minister.

Mr. Lalonde: He will also have to explain why the Canadian dollar over-all has been gaining ground, over the last two years against the European currencies. He will have to reflect upon these facts again and find an explanation.

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EMPLOYMENT

LOCATION OF MANPOWER OFFICES IN DUNNVILLE AND WELLAND, ONT.

Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, but in his absence I will direct it to the Minister of Finance. My concern is jobs in Haldimand-Norfolk. The municipality of Dunnville has a population of approximately 11,000 and is textile and agricultural based. Dunnville is located 30 miles west of Welland, which is in a different constituency and is a large industrial centre. Yet Dunnville's Manpower office is a suboffice of Welland.

If Dunnville's unemployment figures are included with Welland's figures, it does not qualify for any programs that are related to textiles or agriculture.

We now have two more industries closing in the Dunnville area. Will the Minister take steps to separate the Dunnville employment office from the Welland office so that the residents of Dunnville can qualify for the job-creation programs that relate to their needs and not the needs of Welland?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. May I ask the Hon. Member to repeat the question?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McDermid: What is going on over there?

Mr. Crosbie: You are shell shocked.

Mr. Speaker: Would the Hon. Member make his question short?

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I will try to make it short. The Minister was obviously too busy campaigning.

Oral Questions

I pointed out the problem experienced by Dunnville in my constituency. Its Manpower office is a sub unit of the Welland office. Dunnville is textile and agriculturally based, but is tied into the population of Welland which is a large industrial area and does not qualify for any of the assistance programs related to textiles or agriculture.

Since we now have two more plants closing in the Dunnville area, which will put unemployment up to approximately 25 per cent, will the Minister take steps to separate the Dunnville Manpower office from the Welland Manpower office so that the residents of Dunnville can qualify for the job-creation programs that relate to their needs and not those of Welland?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise that I was unable to answer the first question which is the same as this one, because this issue is not a matter of my responsibility. It comes under Manpower and Immigration and the issue could have been addressed to the Acting Minister of Employment and Immigration or to the Parliamentary Secretary. This is how questions in the House are handled. They should be directed to the correct Minister.

● (1450)

NEED FOR EMPLOYMENT IN DUNNVILLE

Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I pointed out at first that I was going to ask my question of the Minister of Employment and Immigration but, in his absence, I would put it to the Minister of Finance because employment is involved with finance. Without the dollars you cannot have programs. Therefore, I will put my question to the Acting Minister.

We are concerned that the history of this Government has been to put one million Canadians out of work. My people in Dunnville are concerned about jobs; they are concerned about employment, and they are concerned about making money to put food on the table to feed their families. What is this Government going to do to create employment for the people of Dunnville, and for textile and agricultural areas like it?

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have taken as notice the Hon. Member's question concerning his riding. As to the situation which now exists in the textile and agricultural industries, the Career Access program administered by the Department of Employment and Immigration is providing financial assistance to help the unemployed train for other jobs. For the people in the textile and clothing industries, early retirement schemes implemented as a result of Bill C-172 being passed provide a measure of assistance. However, Employment and Immigration programs are made available through Canada Manpower Centres. I hope my hon. friend is referring the people who are seeking help to these centers which have money to help them. Concerning the particular situation of the two communities mentioned, I will inquire and reply to him at the next opportunity.