

Will he also look again at the problem of the unemployment insurance payments which many of those people are no longer receiving because they have run out of them and they are unable to live on welfare? Will the Minister try to do something to solve the terrible problems of these people and their families?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I am aware of the figures mentioned by the Hon. Member, and that is why, in the last budget, the federal Government proposed a recovery program involving expenditures of \$2.4 billion on federal capital projects throughout the country. The program was announced when the budget was brought down and it is now operating. Work has started on a number of projects and in many cases, construction starting within the coming months will keep the industry busy for several years. We have done exactly what the Hon. Member is suggesting. Within the framework of federal spending, we have identified a large number of projects that would have to be carried out in any case by the end of this decade. We have rescheduled the programs in order to implement them at a time when Canada is starting to come out of the recession, thus stimulating the Canadian economy. Last July, I met with my provincial counterparts and discussed the matter with them. I asked them to give special attention to the construction industry and to see whether they could supplement the efforts of the federal Government in this area.

[English]

PLIGHT OF UNEMPLOYED IN HAMILTON

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, the program is not working. In Hamilton 500 out of 700 carpenters are unemployed; 600 out of 1,200 electricians are unemployed; 1,000 of 1,200—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I will not allow another long enumeration of statistics. The Hon. Member could be asking a question, but that is all I will allow.

Mr. Deans: Given that those people are unemployed, and I could go on at some great length, that they are not receiving unemployment insurance in many instances—

An Hon. Member: Question.

Mr. Deans:—that there are no jobs for them, that you will do nothing about the COED program, will you move to provide those people with an income so that they can provide for their families?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I do not think jobs are created by pounding one's fists on the table but by proposing specific and realistic programs like those we mentioned. Another way to create jobs, especially in Hamilton, would be to adopt as quickly as possible the amend-

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ments to the Crow Bill, which, once it is passed, will generate \$25 billion in investment in the coming decade and 300,000 person-years' worth of jobs, and this will also bring jobs to the city of Hamilton, in the steel industry as well as in many other sectors. If my Hon. colleague really wants to help the workers of Hamilton, he should hurry up and pass the bill that is now before the House and is going to create jobs across Canada.

[English]

Mr. Deans: Not one single steel job, not one. You are a hypocrite. You are a liar.

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ENERGY

PRODUCTION OF GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who is lining up delegate support.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Move over, Pierre.

Miss Carney: Now that the Minister has resumed his seat, Madam Speaker, may I point out that the Minister has committed some \$8 billion of taxpayers' money for frontier oil and gas exploration under the Petroleum Incentives Program. Does he agree with the view that his Energy Department has failed to produce the geological information needed to develop Canada's offshore mineral resources?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Madam Speaker.

REPORTED CRITICISM OF DEPARTMENT

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is the Minister aware that his colleague, the Minister responsible for economic development, has said that the Energy Department failed to do its homework before committing taxpayers to a runaway expenditure program amounting to billions of dollars?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I think the Minister referred to never said such a thing.

Mr. Crosbie: He wrote it.

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AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH INTO SOIL AND WATER SUPPLIES

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture my question is