

*Inquiries of the Ministry*PROVINCIAL BORROWINGS IN UNITED STATES—STEPS
TO LOWER CANADIAN INTEREST RATES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the minister arises out of his Economic Review. In view of the fact it shows that the increase in jobs arising out of manufacturing has been only 5.5 per cent since 1967 compared with 26.6 per cent in 1961 to 1966, is the minister proposing to introduce any measures that will stimulate the manufacturing sector in order to produce jobs rather than the major concessions that have been made to the extraction industries which have provided relatively few jobs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I suggest to the hon. member that the considerations I have indicated as applying to the supplementary questions asked by the hon. member for York South apply to the question asked by the hon. member now. It seems to me that all this information should normally be given by way of a statement.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask the minister a very simple question. In view of the fact the province of Ontario is now borrowing \$100 million in the United States market and several other provinces have been forced to go to that market in spite of the admonition issued to them by the minister's predecessor, and in view of the fact this is because interest rates are higher in Canada than in the United States, is the minister proposing to take any steps through the Bank of Canada or by consultation with the banks and finance companies to lower interest rates in Canada as has been done in the United States?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the request of my predecessor to the provinces and municipalities to seek their requirements in the Canadian market where possible was repeated by me when I was at the federal-provincial meeting of finance ministers in Jasper. Both the province of Ontario and the province of Quebec particularly have been keeping in close touch with me and the Bank of Canada regarding their borrowing requirements, and we have again impressed upon them the advisability, if they can, of seeking accommodation in the Canadian market.

As for the second part of the question, I am of course in regular touch with the governor of the Bank of Canada and I am watching interest rates.

REAL GROWTH RATE PROJECTION OF DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE—RATE INDICATED BY ECONOMIC COUNCIL
AS NECESSARY FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should point out in all fairness that my question is not supplementary to the last question but rather—

Mr. Speaker: In that case, perhaps I might recognize the hon. member in a short while. For the moment, the Chair in fairness should recognize the hon. member for Sheffield if his question is supplementary—the hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Alexander: With further reference to the Economic Review tabled by the government, the following statement appears therein:

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

It is expected that real growth will continue to surpass its trend rate through 1972.

• (1430)

Can the minister inform the House whether he is aware of the specific real growth rate projection of the Department of Finance and, if so, would he kindly tell the House what it is?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that might be one of the matters I should properly deal with on the night of May 8.

Mr. Baldwin: You will be pretty busy that night.

Mr. Alexander: Let us see if we can try this another way, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, the Economic Council has indicated that we require an annual real growth rate of between 6½ per cent and 7 per cent to get unemployment down to around full employment by 1975. Do the minister and his department accept that proposition handed down by the Economic Council of Canada?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): That is a forecast of medium and long-term growth, Mr. Speaker, and certainly we pay a great deal of attention to the Economic Council of Canada. I shall say more about it on budget night.

GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING UNEMPLOYMENT
AMONG YOUNG AND SINGLE PEOPLE

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. With reference to the appendix in the Economic Review entitled "Some Facts About The Unemployed", could the minister explain the rationale behind the table seeking to show that only about one-third of the unemployed are heads of families, and similar information? Does this mean the government considers that unemployment among unmarried and young Canadians is socially less serious?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I have very serious reservations about a question of this nature at this time.

SUGGESTED ACTION TO STABILIZE CANADIAN DOLLAR
BELOW PAR

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the present value of the American dollar vis-à-vis the Canadian dollar, is the minister taking any direct action or using his good offices to try to make arrangements to stabilize our dollar somewhere below par?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I cannot say any more at this stage except that I am watching the exchange rate very closely.

Mr. Nesbitt: Is the minister aware of the problems this is creating for a great many secondary industries in Canada, particularly those engaged in the manufacture of automobile parts?