

see us, so that we can receive him in a manner appropriate to the circumstances.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Madam Speaker, I think we should take advantage of this opportunity. I shall be delighted to meet the Leader of the Opposition, perhaps within the next 24 hours—tomorrow afternoon if he is in town—and to see whether a resolution would be the best way to express our common position to the Province of Manitoba or whether he would, for example, prefer to take a bilateral approach, since a number of his friends are in the Opposition and they are, in Manitoba, the ones who are opposing this measure for the entrenchment of bilingualism. He may favour another approach, instead of a joint resolution. However, if the Leader of the Opposition is willing to see me, I will try to see him tomorrow afternoon, perhaps, with the Leader of the New Democratic Party, or as soon as is convenient for both leaders.

Mr. Mulroney: Madam Speaker, we are of course always prepared to meet the Prime Minister, especially in the knowledge that any initiative by the Government will respect the fact that this is an area of provincial jurisdiction. We will want to handle this properly. I realize it may be difficult for the Prime Minister to give a definite answer, but the definite question is the following: Do we have an appointment for tomorrow afternoon? If so, I will be delighted to attend, at his convenience.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, of course, let us make it tomorrow afternoon, and meanwhile, the Leader of the Opposition could perhaps find out more about the nature of the issue in question. It is true that the question is being debated before the Manitoba legislature, but the Leader of the Opposition is also aware that this is a constitutional matter involving the Manitoba Act and the interpretation it was given by the courts nearly 100 years ago. It is not only a provincial matter but of concern to all Canadians and especially to those who entrenched the Bilingualism Act in the Constitution. I believe that this aspect of the matter demands that we, the federal Parliament, make our position known. But, once again, if the Leader of the Opposition can get better results by talking to his friends in the Opposition in Manitoba, I am perfectly willing to withdraw the resolution. Perhaps the best thing would be for him to convince Mr. Sterling Lyon and others who are opposed to this measure to make a broader view and see the importance to Canada and its future of entrenching the agreement that was concluded several months ago.

● (1450)

[English]

Madam Speaker: I just want to remind Hon. Members that the Speaker finds herself in a quite delicate situation because appointments should not be negotiated in the House. However, taking into account all of the factors, and I think everyone has

Oral Questions

those factors in mind, I will let it go for a while. But I just want to warn the Hon. Member for Osahwa that negotiations on appointments can be done outside the House.

[Translation]

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): I agree, Madam Speaker. As far as my fellow members are concerned, I would like to say that we have no reservations about taking part in this meeting to discuss a subject that is very important to Anglophones and Francophones across Canada.

* * *

[English]

SOCIAL SERVICES

CUTBACKS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower, who is probably aware that social service programs in British Columbia, for example the Renfrew Collingwood Seniors and Handicapped Centre in my riding, are being cut back by the cruel restraint program of the Bennett Social Credit Government. Is the Minister aware that the result of his new job creation funding announced this week, which abandons public programs for business programs, is another blow, in fact a double whammy if you like, for these social service centres in British Columbia? Will he agree with me that this reliance on the private sector for job creation really makes him and his policy no different from the Bennett Social Credit policy, or indeed their federal allies, the Mulroney Conservatives?

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Could we have a bit of silence in the House?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, while the Hon. Member put his question to the Minister of Manpower, I think he meant it for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I was not able to hear all of his speech given the noise around me, but I think I caught the drift of it. I would say we are anxious as a Government to provide a context in which the private sector will create jobs, and we are also conscious of the need for direct action on the part of the Government to create jobs.

I did not understand the specific allegation or specific question. I will look at his remarks in *Hansard* and try to reply to them at length, but I did not hear much of what he said.

* * *

THE ADMINISTRATION

APPOINTMENT OF FORMER MINISTER OF STATE (MINES)— NATURE OF SECURITY CHECK

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. A necessary ingredient of the many factors to be considered prior