

There are two parts to my question. First, can the Leader of the Government tell me upon whose authority these unsightly additions to our corridors are being installed?

Secondly, what is the purpose of their installation?

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the question will be taken as notice. The reason for the installation of the partitions may have something to do with security, the maintenance of heat values, or fire protection. I do not, however, have all of the explanation this afternoon.

Senator Hicks: Honourable senators, I would only observe that the building has been here for more than 60 years. It seems a shame that we are getting around to defiling the corridors now, when we have managed quite well with the beautiful, unobstructed marble corridors since the building was erected some 65 years ago.

TRANSPORT

CP AIR—DISCOUNT FARES

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. It has to do with the fact that the Canadian Transport Commission has ordered CP Air not to implement no-frills discount fares on all of its domestic flights. The matter was to be studied further and a decision was to be reached by March 19.

I wonder whether the Leader of the Government could ascertain, through the Canadian Transport Commission, whether the decision has been made? Could he also find out why consumers are being denied the right to discount fares? I want to know why, when the major airlines are having to lay off their employees at a time of such high unemployment, they are being denied the opportunity to give to the consumers cheaper air fares? The Canadian Transport Commission, which has nothing better to do, is denying them that right. I want to know the reason for that.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I shall be pleased to take the question as notice.

● (1420)

ENERGY

NEWFOUNDLAND—OFFSHORE OIL RESOURCES—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT

Hon. C. William Doody: Honourable senators, I have a question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate with respect to a statement made by the Premier of the Province of Newfoundland concerning the offshore oil discussions. Apparently, when he called the election, the Premier of Newfoundland tabled a document in which selected quotations from a federal document were included in the Newfoundland material but were not made public. Could that federal document be made public for the sake of public knowledge in the province?

[Senator Hicks.]

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I will take the question as notice. I was of the personal view that that document had already been made public. However, I will check into the situation.

THE ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Robert Muir: Honourable senators, I should like to pose a question to the minister of state in charge of regional economic development. Within recent days it has been reported by Statistics Canada that 1,116,000 people are out of work in Canada. I am not speaking of statistics basically, but of people, human beings.

How many more hundreds of thousands of people will have to lose their jobs before the government does something—I mean really does something? What hope, may I ask the honourable gentleman, is the government offering all of these people that work might soon be available?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, the government is doing a number of things now. One of them is that we are attempting to make a major contribution to the reduction of inflation in this country, along with our trading partners in the western world. Following that, interest rates and the cost of investments can come down. We believe that when that happens there will be an encouragement to make substantially increased investments in the expansion of the economy in this country. That, of course, will involve for a great many people the jobs that are so badly needed in this country now.

Senator Muir: I should like to pose a supplementary question. I listened intently to the minister's response, but what he is suggesting will really do hardly anything for the million or a million-and-a-half—and those figures are no exaggeration—who are out of work at the moment.

I might say, to enlighten the minister for my next question, that since September the labour force has shrunk by 155,000 people. To them you can add the 95,000 people officially classed as "discouraged workers," people who have apparently just given up and no longer look for work. I believe they don't look for work any more because they are convinced that because of the policies of this government they will not find it.

I do not cast any reflection on the men and women who work in the Canada Manpower centres, because they are doing their utmost for the unemployed in this country. I am sure that if either the minister or I were behind Canada Manpower counters in areas of the Atlantic region and Quebec—and, indeed, as I mentioned the other day, in what used to be "fat Ontario,"—we would have nothing to give them either.

We have heard announcements about training. The minister in charge of the economy made some statements the other day in that respect. That is important, yes, but it will not help anyone for months or maybe even years.

What the minister has answered today in response to my first question is also important, but it bears on the future. May