

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

reason for any delay in the project. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition, as I have frequently stated in this House and outside, that we will give full co-operation to the project. As I understand it, in the first instance it is a matter of the two railways deciding how and at what rate they want to proceed.

**Mr. Stanfield:** In view of the answer given by the minister, it is obvious there is hardly a meeting of minds between the representatives of the city of Toronto and the minister. I therefore ask the Prime Minister if he will agree to undertake such a meeting. If he is not prepared to do that, is he at least prepared to have a meeting with some of his private members who represent the city of Toronto and who complain they cannot see, let alone speak, to the government?

**Mr. Trudeau:** We cannot very well telephone all the mayors of Canada to ask if they want to see us. I repeat that we are open to meeting with anyone who asks to see a minister or any of our federal officials at any time. Surely the Leader of the Opposition is not suggesting that I pick up the telephone and call here and there to see what we can do for them.

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Along the lines of the answer given by the Prime Minister may I ask him whether, instead of telephoning, he could not announce a meeting inviting the heads of the major municipalities or all municipalities in Canada for the purpose of discussing what works may be undertaken? There is no need to telephone. He can call such a meeting by making an announcement.

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is not a very constructive suggestion, Mr. Speaker. Only last week we had a meeting with the provinces at which we discussed the economic situation and unemployment. Surely the hon. member knows that the municipalities come under the jurisdiction of the provinces. In that sense it would be very improper for us to convene them here.

UNEMPLOYMENT—SUGGESTED REINSTATEMENT OF  
WINTER WORKS PROGRAM—GRANTS INSTEAD OF  
LOANS—SHARING OF PROJECT COSTS

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. As it is not too late, will the government reinstate the winter works program as an emergency measure, as requested yesterday by the mayor of Toronto?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** As has been said several times, Mr. Speaker, we have replaced the winter works program with programs which are fourfold as generous as the winter works program ever was.

**Mr. Ryan:** As the mayor of Toronto stated that the city cannot get along on loans such as have been proposed by the government, will the government either make grants or institute a shared-cost program available to boroughs in the same position as the city of Toronto because of the great degree of unemployment?

[Mr. Jamieson.]

**Mr. Trudeau:** I am surprised to hear a member from the Toronto area suggest that the loans be replaced by grants. If that were the case, the grants would have to be paid by taxes. They would not be reimbursable. Grants would be paid by taxes which would be mainly levied around the city of Toronto.

**Mr. Ryan:** Would the Prime Minister not agree—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT—GRANTS INSTEAD OF LOANS—  
DISCUSSIONS WITH QUEBEC

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister.

In view of his refusal to transform the loans into subsidies, can the Prime Minister tell us whether at the constitutional conference the premier of Quebec discussed the matter with one of his colleagues in the Cabinet, or with himself, and whether he has given Mr. Bourassa a reply?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, once more I repeat that it is not customary to reveal the subject matter of *in camera* conferences. If the hon. member wants to be informed of the position taken by the Quebec government and not made public, he must approach that government, or have some representative in the Quebec National Assembly put the question.

**Mr. Valade:** I would like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

The Prime Minister has been content with providing me with an evasive answer. I am asking him whether he has discussed with Quebec's premier the possibility of changing grants into loans to the provinces for winter works.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Not revealing the confidential position of the other parties is not being evasive, Mr. Speaker.

If the hon. member is inquiring about Quebec's position, my answer remains the same. If he is asking whether I have discussed the problem, the answer is negative.

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF LOAN FUND  
CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROVINCES

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister consider tabling the correspondence between the federal government and the provinces concerning the loan fund?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Such correspondence did not come my way. I will find out from the ministers whether they have received any and whether the correspondence was confidential or otherwise. If there has been correspondence and the provinces