

Quebec section of the Progressive Conservative party, I could—

[English]

Mr. Hees: Where are the Alberta members?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May we have order, please.

[Translation]

It seems the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe wants to put a supplementary. He may have the floor.

Mr. Wagner: I now wish to put a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the deplorable situation in Quebec, where a quarter of a million people are unemployed, is the present leader of the temporary government willing to look favourably on the initiative he casually brushed off a few weeks ago, namely an immediate federal-provincial conference in Quebec to discuss the economic problems of that province, to which all political leaders, leaders of intermediary organizations and representatives of both unions and employers would participate?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member would suggest that federal-provincial conferences be held at that level for each province. He should be aware of the federal-provincial conferences which have already taken place between the ministers of finance, the ministers of health, and of those which are scheduled for the forthcoming months.

Concerning the particular conferences as important as those which have been suggested by him, the hon. member should remember that we of the Liberal party have rejected the associate states thesis.

Mr. Graftey: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope that the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe will excuse me but his colleague from Brome-Missisquoi has a point of order.

• (1450)

UNEMPLOYMENT IN QUEBEC—REVIEW OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Mr. Heward Graftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Considering the figures relating to unemployment announced today in the province of Quebec, is this government prepared to drastically review its regional development policy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wonder in what direction the hon. member would have this policy reviewed, but it seems that we heard some people state during the election campaign that too much was being granted to the province of Quebec.

Oral Questions

[English]

Mr. Graftey: Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to ask questions, but I certainly did not say that there was too much going to the province of Quebec.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Graftey: Could we have order in the House, Mr. Speaker?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Graftey: It is impossible to ask questions in this House, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member will kindly resume his seat I will try to assist him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think hon. members are being unfair to the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi. He has the right to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Graftey: I sometimes think I am in kindergarten, not in the highest court of the land. I now ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion the following question: in view of today's unemployment figures showing ever-increasing regional economic disparities, especially in the province of Quebec, will the minister now review the various policies that brought about such a situation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we are in the process, and have been for the last three months, of discussing with each of the provinces what variations they would like to see in regional expansion policies. I have had some consultations with officials of the government of the province of Quebec and we will be holding others in the very near future. We are quite open to changes in the present approach if these can be proved to be more effective.

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INDUSTRY

MICHELIN TIRE COMPANY—POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF PLANTS IN UNITED STATES—COMMITMENT REGARDING EXPORT OF CANADIAN PRODUCTION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the government of the United States used the Department of Regional Economic Expansion program to justify its countervailing duty against the Michelin Corporation, in view of the further fact it was announced in Paris today that the Michelin Corporation has received credits of some \$150 million to build two plants in the United States, can the minister assure the House that he has obtained assurances from the Michelin Corporation that they will live up to their commitment to export 80 per cent of their Canadian production to the United States?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, there has been no change in the original plans of Michelin, nothing that has been con-