

*Oral Questions*REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO END WORK
STOPPAGE

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, we are talking about Monday night. In view of the very checkered discussions that have been going on between the parties over months, and the very clear statement yesterday by both parties that they have nothing more to talk about, that they were no further ahead when they started to talk than when they were locked out a couple of weeks ago, surely if the Government is going to command the economic reins of this country in something so fundamental to the general economy, let alone western Canada's, the Government could move some time today so that legislation could get into the parliamentary stream today, and come Tuesday the port would be open legally and the parties could return to their talks for as long as they want, as long as the traffic runs?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I have, of course, been following the transportation aspect of this question very closely. But the labour aspect is in the hands of my friend, the Minister of Labour, who might have something to add in answer to the Hon. Member's question.

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THE ECONOMY

FORTHCOMING UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. All Canadians know that we have lost thousands of jobs in the last few months. My question concerns the period between now and Christmas. Will the Minister confirm that his Department has done an estimate of the number of jobs that will be lost between now and Christmas and that the number is 68,000?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): No, Madam Speaker.

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CANADA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

IMPACT ON UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I would like some clarification from the Minister when he says no. Was it no to the part of the question simply concerning an estimate? Was an estimate done? Or was the Minister questioning the figure? I would like the Minister to clarify that. The figure was 68,000 job losses between now and Christmas. I want the Minister to deal with that.

● (1425)

What I would like the Minister to answer now, given that the single new job-creation program that will go into effect this fall, the Canada Community Development Program, will

produce 10,000 new jobs at the most between now and Christmas, will he acknowledge that, as a result of the thousands of jobs that will disappear between now and Christmas and the few new jobs that the Government will create, we will have a net loss of thousands of jobs between now and Christmas?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, again, I have to say no to both questions.

QUERY RESPECTING ESTIMATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, is the Minister then saying to the House—because it is important for him to clarify this—that given the job losses which have been occurring in recent weeks and which are anticipated to continue between now and Christmas as weighed against the limited number of new jobs that the Government will produce—is he telling the people of Canada that there will not be a net loss in jobs by Christmas?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I would simply like to point out to the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party that when it comes to the implementation of the community development projects, the target of jobs between now and Christmas in terms of actually coming on stream is closer to 55,000 and not the 10,000 which he talked about. We hope to have those jobs fully in operation in order to take care of those who are losing their jobs during that period of time.

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FINANCE

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS SECTOR

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that there has been an increase in the number of companies that the Government has bailed out during the past few months, such as the Dome Petroleum deal, the Maislin deal, and we now hear of additional moneys going into companies such as Canadair and de Havilland, would the Minister tell the House what is the total budget which the Government has put aside in order to finance these forms of bail-outs?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Government has not set aside any particular funds for this particular purpose. The Canadair and de Havilland equity investment has been announced by my colleague, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. It is \$400 million; \$200 million to each corporation. This has been announced and made public.

REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, if the Minister has not set aside any budget for bailouts, would he refer the whole matter of bailouts, of support for companies