

My question is why?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Very simple, Madam Speaker. The Opposition, which is very concerned about government deficits, will understand this because the net result of that application would mean we would lose \$8 million already and would have to add another \$1 million to the pot if that application were acceptable. I am sure the Hon. Member would understand the reasons for that.

INQUIRY RESPECTING REASONS FOR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Madam Speaker, the same question was asked and the same answer was given with respect to TIC, and again my question is why?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I am sorry, Madam Speaker. I am not aware of the Texas Instruments Company question. I do not recall it ever being asked of me.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

PLIGHT OF PEOPLE EXHAUSTING BENEFITS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The Minister may know that yesterday I raised the plight of people in my constituency who are about to run out of unemployment insurance, who have been looking for but cannot find jobs because there are no jobs, and who cannot pay their bills because the welfare payments they get, or are about to get, will not be sufficient to meet their commitments. In what way does this plight in which they find themselves contribute to the over-all economic recovery which the Government tells us is on the move and is showing signs in Canada?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, it is obvious there are still a large number of people who are facing very difficult personal situations. Even in times of very high prosperity in this country we have known people who have lived in poverty and have had to face very difficult situations. I have a great deal of sympathy for those people who are facing such situations. But what the record shows is that the Canadian economy is growing at the present time faster than any other economy among the industrial countries. We are creating jobs faster than any other industrial company.

Some Hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Nielsen: Come off it.

Mr. Lalonde: Indeed, we have succeeded in cutting inflation by half in the course of the last year. As a matter of fact we have reduced inflation more than any of the largest seven industrial countries. We are doing everything we can to help

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the plight of Canadians who are facing difficulties, by stimulating the economy.

Mr. Nielsen: Rubbish.

Mr. Lalonde: But I cannot guarantee to the Hon. Member that he will not be able to identify Canadians even in the best of times who will be in difficulty. I am afraid this is what we must face. What we should do through our social security programs is to try to help those people, and this is what we have done as a government, contrary to a lot of provincial Governments—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, the Minister indicates that the Government is working as hard as it can to create jobs. In the meantime, given that we cannot produce a sufficient number of jobs today or next month, or let us say even by this time next year, to meet all of the needs of the people who are unemployed and looking for work, will the Minister recognize the need to extend unemployment insurance benefits to those who are legitimately out of work, who are looking for work and who cannot find work, during this period when the Government has no programs that will meet their needs?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that the Unemployment Insurance Program is already running a large deficit. He also knows that welfare programs, the social assistance programs, are under provincial responsibility and that social assistance programs are there to help people who are in dire straits. My hon. friend should realize that we, as a federal Government, have maintained the social net in this country. We have maintained the social programs, contrary to what has happened in a lot of other countries and contrary to what has happened in a lot of Provinces.

I submit to the Hon. Member that the points he raised should be raised in the provincial Legislature of Ontario—

Mr. Deans: This is where they should be raised.

Mr. Lalonde: They should be asking the provincial Government of Ontario to do its share—

Mr. Deans: These people are unemployed, damn it.

Mr. Lalonde: —in terms of helping people in providing adequate welfare payments—

Mr. Deans: Social insurance was never intended to be pulled back.