

Oral Questions

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the minister knows very well that an amendment could be introduced, and I am sure there would be agreement on both sides of the House to give it quick passage, to give the chairman, Judge Tremblay, final authority in cases where there is not unanimous agreement to make the binding recommendation. That problem could be removed.

Does the minister not agree that having spokesmen with authority to sign the final report would be much more effective with regard to reaching a final resolution, because the two people would not simply be advisers: they could bargain with the union and the Post Office and, indeed, in the final analysis with the chairman, in getting a much more favourable solution?

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, that would put some doubt on the ability and impartiality of the mediator-arbitrator. I think he must be able to carry out his responsibility and bring about a fair and just collective agreement.

● (1127)

It is one thing to say we shall add two assessors to help the mediator-arbitrator in his work, but it is another thing to say, after the fact, that in order to please some postal employees we should change the mandate which has been issued by this House to the mediator-arbitrator and put a new team in place which could probably satisfy some union leaders. I submit to the hon. member that the course of action offered to the employees to appoint someone as an assessor who would help the mediator-arbitrator in his work is, by its nature, a giant step forward in an attempt to solve this dispute. It should be regarded as a positive gesture by the government and not be considered as just another step in the negotiations. I think that procedure has been explored to the fullest, and the employees ought to accept the will of parliament.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT**INQUIRY AS TO MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST UNEMPLOYED YOUTH**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I understand that today several ministers are absent as a result of the federal-provincial conference. However, in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration I would like to put my question to his parliamentary secretary.

There is at present a very serious problem. On one hand, the Canadian government is spending very substantial funds to assist individuals who are retraining and learning a new trade to enable them afterwards to serve Canada while earning their living; on the other hand, when the technical training is completed, especially as far as heavy machinery operators are concerned, they had been told that there was a need for heavy machinery operators and when all expenditures have been incurred they learn there is no job. I would like to ask the

[Mr. Ouellet.]

parliamentary secretary what steps the Department of Employment intends to take to enable those who have been trained as heavy machinery operators to get a job when they have made the necessary efforts to be useful in their trade in Canada and honourably earn their living?

[English]

Mr. Frank Maine (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Department of Employment and Immigration is trying to maintain active liaison with industry to find out the types of jobs which will become available so that the courses can train people in the skills needed by industry. Because of the time-lag between pupils starting their training and finishing training, it is not always possible to merge the two identically, but efforts are being made to improve the situation so that people are trained for jobs which will become available.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM WILL BENEFIT FROM NEW FUNDS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is also directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I should like to ask him whether he can tell the House today what additional steps the government intends to take in order to further the implementation of the training and job-creation program. Can he tell the House whether a program that has benefited from subsidies during the second phase, that is recognized by all concerned, organizations and middle management to be of value, can he tell the House whether such a program can obtain additional funds to enable it to operate on its own and thus guarantee the employees who worked within its scope to obtain permanent jobs?

● (1132)

[English]

Mr. Frank Maine (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the ultimate test of spending money on manpower training is to have people usefully employed in jobs at the end of their training. All efforts are being expended to make sure money is being spent justifiably and that the results are those desired. To that end, in times of restraint we will certainly be trying to do whatever we can to make sure that the taxpayer is getting the maximum benefit for his dollar.

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TRADE**GATT NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, my questions are supplementary to those asked earlier pertaining to GATT and they are directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.