

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. McKinnon:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. My original question was directed to the acting minister and I am sorry he did not see fit to reply to it. With particular reference to the base in London, Ontario, the people in that city and in southwestern Ontario have been waiting ten months to learn the fate of base London. Can the government not at least provide an early decision and an explanation now as to how they arrive at these decisions?

**Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, the minister will be reviewing that matter immediately upon his return from London. In the meantime, I can advise the hon. member that the city of London has adequate representation in this House, on this side.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** That is not what I heard the other day.

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[Translation]

**SOCIAL SECURITY****POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME PLAN—PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES**

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Could the minister tell the House when the government will be in a position to implement a guaranteed annual income policy giving an appropriate income to the Canadian people who have to leave the labour market before being eligible for old age pension, and could he make a progress report on the negotiations with the provinces on this subject?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the negotiations with the provinces ended in June last year and all provinces expressed support for the income supplement program; Ontario is the only province to reject this proposal; the other provinces endorsed the proposal either in principle or categorically.

However, a lot of work still has to be done regarding the precise administration of such a program. I am still waiting for some answers on the part of the provinces to consider the number of steps they want to take in the implementation of this kind of program if it were managed by provincial authorities. The proposal we have brought forward implies a provincial administration with a cost-sharing of 50 per cent of the expenses by the federal government. If we cannot reach sufficient agreement with the provinces, we shall have to consider other alternatives.

[Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi).]

[English]

**FINANCE****MEASURES TO IMPROVE CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the statement of the chairman of Canada's largest telecommunication equipment manufacturers, Northern Telecom Limited, that his company may shift a major portion of its operation to the United States unless the business climate in Canada improves, I ask, what action does the government contemplate to make sure that the climate for business in Canada improves, so that business and manufacturers in Canada may feel secure?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, to refer particularly to Mr. Scrivener's remarks, he laid emphasis on the comparative wage rates in Canada and the United States, attesting the acceleration which has occurred in Canada in recent years. As the hon. member knows, one of our principal concerns in maintaining the anti-inflation program is to reduce the rate of increase of costs in Canada, the very situation which all Canadians, as well as Mr. Scrivener, I am sure, would like to bring about.

**Mr. Towers:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House if there will be an improvement within the next 12 months?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, everything I can do to bring it about will be done.

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**INFORMATION****REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE STUDY OF PROPOSALS FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LEGISLATION**

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the government House leader. The other day I asked about the launching of the study which the government had mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, the study on the question of freedom of information, and the hon. gentleman replied that he was waiting for a report from the committee. Of course, in view of the problems he had on his mind that day to do with the election in Quebec the minister probably forgot that the terms of reference lapsed at the end of last session and that we have no jurisdiction. Is the hon. gentleman prepared now, on behalf of the government, to give to the committee that proposal which the government has in mind, as referred to in the Speech from the Throne, so that we may launch a study and report back to the House shortly?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the only word I should like to qualify in the hon. member's question is the word "now." The proposals will be sent forward to the committee just as soon as they have received proper scrutiny and we have reached the conclusion that they would satisfy the hon. member.