

there has been misspending of funds in New Brunswick. Can the minister tell the House, specifically, if he supports the future funding of those programs in New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada—yes or no?

Mr. LeBlanc: Madam Speaker, I really think that now I am in an area that is the responsibility of my colleague, the minister for DREE. I am certainly in favour of anything that helps the people of New Brunswick.

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EMPLOYMENT

EFFECT OF MICRO-ELECTRONIC DEVELOPMENTS ON DISPLACEMENT OF WOMEN IN WORK FORCE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. The Women's Bureau of his department just sponsored a conference on the effect on women in the workplace of the development of the micro-electronics industry. Given the fact that it has been estimated that one million to one and a half million women workers in offices will be displaced in the next ten years by micro-electronics, can the minister tell the House what plans his department, or the Department of Employment and Immigration has made to protect the right of women who wish or need to work, to be able to continue to work?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for a very timely question. The conference to which he refers, on the effect of microtechnology on employment, not just of women workers but of all workers in the future, is still under way at the Chateau Laurier. There are exceptionally able authorities from many parts of the world participating in an examination of exactly what will be the effect of the microchip revolution. Indeed, the authorities who are speaking are quoting sources that indicate everything from a vast reduction in jobs to, in some cases, an actual increase in the number of jobs.

The conference is sponsored by the Women's Bureau because of the fact that the type of jobs that are most likely to go out of existence as a consequence of the microelectronic revolution, are jobs in the banking industry and offices, that have traditionally been held by female employees. I think the results of the conference will enable my department and other departments, and other governments, to plan to meet this challenge in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT WORKERS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Madam Speaker, in the 18 months since the Carrothers report was made, four times as many people have been laid off from jobs as in the 18 months before that. Yet the only comment from the government is an indication that it would implement the proposal of the Carrothers commission. Is the minister's department working on any real legislation which would protect workers who

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are laid off because plants are closing down as the result of microelectronic expansion?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, the hon. member will be aware of the announcements made by the Department of Labour of intended legislation as part of the industrial adjustment package that the government brought forth about a month ago. In addition to that we have undertaken such things as this conference, which has been in the preparation stage for a substantial period of time and, as I say, has brought together what are perhaps the best authorities in the world on this subject. It is hoped that this conference will show the way for the type of legislation about which the hon. member speaks.

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PENITENTIARIES

PROCEDURES GOVERNING SURVEILLANCE OF INMATES ON DAY OUTINGS

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General of Canada. Would he please advise this House whether the government is considering revising the surveillance procedures on prisoners who are taken on special day outings, or doing away with that completely in the interest of public safety?

I raise this question in light of the recent escape in Toronto of a convicted murderer of two children who, with several other prisoners, was allowed to visit the Sportsman's Show at Exhibition Place. The prisoner has since given himself up.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, in the case of that particular inmate I should like the House to be aware that he had been under psychiatric care during the period that he was incarcerated and had been pronounced to be sane. On that basis he was returned to the general inmate population at Warkworth. He had had a number of absences under escort from the institution which had gone very well indeed. On this particular occasion it was highly unpredictable that he would have escaped from escort at that time. As the facts indicate, he turned himself in a couple of days later.

We have no 100 per cent accurate way of predicting the behaviour of any human being, let alone of someone who has been incarcerated in an institution. I think the system we have is a secure and safe one in over 99.5 per cent of all cases. I cannot tell the House that any dramatic changes are possible which would make the system more secure than it is now.

REQUEST FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF PROCEDURES

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question. As I understood the hon. member's question, it was whether the situation was going to be re-examined, notwithstanding the assurances of the Solicitor General. Would the Solicitor General undertake to the House that he will look into the question and re-examine the