

Inquiries of the Ministry

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

Mr. Speaker: Order. The procedure would be to place that question on the order paper.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

QUEBEC—STEPS TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour and ask him whether he is ready to make a statement as to the means he intends to take to improve the employment position in Quebec, where 100,000 people are now out of work.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): I stated on an earlier occasion that it would be possible at a later date in connection with the speech from the throne, and later the budget, to indicate what further steps will be taken to deal with the unemployment situation in the country generally and in Quebec, where despite the figure mentioned by the hon. member the situation has considerably improved.

Mr. Valade: The minister has told us he intends to take some measures to deal with this situation. I wonder whether he intends to recommend the abolition of the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials as a means of alleviating unemployment.

Mr. MacEachen: That, of course, is a question which might be directed to the Minister of Finance.

REPORTED DIFFERENCES RESPECTING
MANPOWER POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the great differences of opinion between the minister and the officials of his department and Dr. Deutsch and the economic council with respect to the manpower policies and needs of Canada, is the minister considering discussions between his department and the economic council with the hope that one acceptable manpower policy could be evolved?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for evolving a manpower policy is the responsibility of the government, and in particular of the Department of Labour.

20220—778

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. D. Clancy (Yorkton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Labour. Because of the unpredictable and unforeseen severity of the winter on the prairies, has he considered extending the winter works program for 30 days?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I agree that in certain parts of the prairies there have been unforeseen weather conditions. The matter is under review, and it will be possible later in the month to determine whether an extension is necessary. I am sure my hon. friend appreciates that if an extension were granted at the moment it might have the effect of slackening the activity which is essential for the remainder of the month of March. The matter is under review, and a decision will be made later.

Mr. Clancy: A supplementary question. Will the minister give me the assurance that all municipalities which undertook this type of work will be given consideration?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Municipalities will be given every possible consideration in the way I have indicated.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TRIBUTE TO DECEASED UNITED STATES
CLERGYMAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Mr. Winkler: Who is that today?

Mr. Barnett: I should like to ask whether the Acting Prime Minister, on behalf of this parliament and the people of Canada, would convey to the President of the United States a tribute to the memory of the late Reverend James Reeb, who died as a martyr in the cause of human rights and freedom.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to convey the suggestion of the hon. member to the Prime Minister. I am sure I would be echoing the views of every member of the house in expressing the sorrow we must all feel over this regrettable death.