

Inquiries of the Ministry

persons employed who have not been on social aid for three months or more?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I read that particular sentence and the same question occurred to me. I think it is somewhat ambiguous. I do not know whether the second part of the sentence is intended to include a different category or whether the second part of the sentence is related to the unemployed. I am not sure on that point, but in any case the programs put forward for federal participation are provincially approved, and the type of program hitherto has been a matter for provincial decision. We as the federal government have made no alteration whatsoever in the regulations governing the programs. We have, as my hon. friend realizes, always asked that preference be given to the unemployed in the matter of hirings, and this would include persons in receipt of unemployment insurance and also those in receipt of unemployment assistance.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question. Could the minister get some clarification of this matter, because I should like to know whether persons who are in receipt of unemployment insurance rather than those on welfare will be employed. Does this preclude a municipality from benefiting under the winter works incentive program unless social welfare recipients are employed? A great many are concerned on this point.

Mr. MacEachen: The federal government naturally will provide 50 per cent of the direct payroll costs without strings attached, as we have in the past. In British Columbia they have had a graduated system of bringing the provincial participation up to 100 per cent of direct payroll costs. I will be glad to try to get clarification of this point, because we will need clarification from our own point of view.

Mr. Douglas: A further supplementary question. Is any proviso or condition imposed by the provincial governments precluding municipalities from benefiting from the arrangement by which 50 per cent of the payroll cost is paid by the federal government?

Mr. MacEachen: Except that these projects, as I understand it, must be approved and submitted on behalf of the municipalities through provincial governments. In other words the first stage of approval is provincial approval, and then it comes through the federal government. In that sense, of course, these projects are a matter for provincial decision.

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Mr. Douglas: Could I ask the minister whether that would still be true even if the provinces were to impose impossible conditions?

Mr. MacEachen: That is something we would have to consider, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Comox-Alberni.

Mr. Barnett: My question has already been asked and answered, Mr. Speaker.

FISHERIES

NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR FISHERMEN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): May I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the poor salmon, lobster and cod fisheries in Newfoundland to date this year, would the minister advise whether his department would consider assisting our fishermen in the same way that assistance has been given to our farmers when they have experienced crop failures?

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): While the lobster catch in Newfoundland this year may have been slightly below the average, the figures for the salmon season have not yet been fully compiled and I would not wish to comment before we have the final results. It is true that the cod fishery has not started very well, but my information is that in recent days it has shown an encouraging improvement, and my department would not be justified in considering any type of direct assistance before the final figures for the season are known.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works and ask him whether the air conditioning in this chamber has been cut off in the hope that this will have the effect of shortening the Conservative filibuster on the flag.

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): I will take the question as notice.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST FOR ANSWER TO QUESTION ON ORDER PAPER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I should like to ask the Minister of Justice