

[English]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—PUBLICIZING OF INFORMATION IN ISOLATED AREAS

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State arising from the statement he made that applications for summer employment should be in by April 15. Can he say whether, in this regard, his department is conferring with any other department, such as the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in order to bring this information to people in isolated areas who may not learn of it by April 15 unless it is brought to their attention by one of those departments?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

REFUSAL OF RAILWAYS TO ACCEPT CONCILIATION BOARD REPORT ON DISPUTE WITH LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS—DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): I have a question for the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. After 15 months of negotiations between the railway companies and the locomotive engineers, has the minister received news that the railway companies have turned down the recent report of the conciliation board? If so, will the minister state what action his department is taking to bring the parties together?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, a report has been made by the conciliation board which has been released. It places the unions in a strike position within a reasonable period, about a week, and the companies in a lockout position. I would anticipate the next step to be mediation.

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AGRICULTURE

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO SUPREME COURT

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Justice. It arises out of the question I asked him last week. Has he, since then, read the decision handed down by the Manitoba Court of Appeal with regard to the interpretation of section 121 of the British North America Act, and is he now prepared to say whether he will permit a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada on the interpretation of that section?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, yes, I have, but I am not in a position, until I have received further advice from the officials of the department, to say what action we are going to take. The position, as I see it at the moment, does not differ from the statement that I made earlier to the House, that in order for there to be a successful reference to the

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Supreme Court of Canada there must be agreement not only on what questions of law are to be determined by the court but there must also be agreement on the facts. Speaking to the latter situation, we have no satisfactory statement of agreed facts.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, is the minister not aware of the old saying that where there is a will there is a way? If he does not act, western Canada will become convinced that there is no will.

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FINANCE

INCREASE IN CHARTERED BANK SERVICE CHARGES—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the great concern being voiced by the public and members of the House of Commons about the increase in service charges by the chartered banks of Canada, would he refer this issue to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not think, really, that it would be proper to make such a reference, but I will be glad to consider the matter.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, while the minister is considering this question, would he also consider asking the committee to look into the behaviour of the banks in terms of making irresponsible statements on government policy?

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GRAIN

INQUIRY AS TO POLICY RESPECTING FARM STORAGE

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. Since he is advocating that 200 million bushels of wheat less should be held in commercial positions and that a comparable amount of barley should be on hand for potential sales and since there will be an increase in rape grown, thus creating a storage problem for farmers, will the minister be announcing a policy dealing with farm storage?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the amount of grain in storage at the present time may not necessarily increase. The hon. member is right in referring to some indications that we probably could have a larger inventory of barley compared with our overly large inventory of wheat for sales in future, but the total situation need not worsen.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Despite the assurances by the minister responsible for the Wheat Board, will the minister consider reducing the 12 per cent sales tax and, in addition, introducing legislation which will provide for low interest rates in connection with farm storage which will become necessary?