

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—FINAL DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING PRIVATE PROJECTS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the minister.

I would like to know whether a deadline has been set concerning the submission of private projects under the Local Initiatives Program or if applications for extension can be approved at any time and get special consideration.

[English]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Those local initiative programs that are privately sponsored come to an end at the end of May, with the exception of about 1,200 projects which on their merits and according to criteria that have been circulated, will be extended until the sum of \$30 million has been expended.

[Later:]

[Translation]

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—ALLOTMENT OF PART OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether part of the \$35 million allotted to LIP projects is available for projects submitted by municipalities?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): No, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

GRAIN

RAPESEED—TYPE OF CHARGES LAID BY WHEAT BOARD AGAINST CERTAIN FARMERS FOR OVERDELIVERY

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, with reference to questions asked earlier of the Minister of Agriculture in connection with the prosecution of farmers believed to have delivered rapeseed beyond their quotas, in view of the fact that anyone convicted will of course be found guilty of a criminal offence and be branded as a criminal, may I ask him why the Wheat Board has proceeded as though this was a criminal offence rather than under the provisions of the Wheat Board Act where an actual conviction would be for a pseudo-civil offence?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I will look into that. Perhaps the Minister of Justice will reply to the question, although I think the charges are based on a violation of the Wheat Board Act and the regulations thereof.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Is the minister saying that the questions asked, which indicated that criminal prosecutions had been undertaken, were without any foundation?

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker, I said I would look into it.

[Mr. Mackasey.]

PUBLIC SERVICE

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF TRANSPORT COMMISSION RESPECTING DUTY OF EMPLOYEES TO GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. It is based on a public statement by the President of the Canadian Transport Commission to the effect that public employees owe loyal service to the government and cannot be neutral when dealing with the opposition. Can the minister advise the House whether this doctrine is also held by himself and the government?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I would like to study a little more closely what was actually said before I accept this version of the doctrine.

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HOUSING

CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES ON NEEDS—INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of housing. Has he had replies from the provinces with regard to consultation on housing needs where they concern the provinces, and would he indicate what progress has been made with regard to the introduction of the legislation he promised some time ago?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the process of consultation with the provinces is still continuing, but we have met with all the provinces and had reactions from them. I hope to introduce legislation along the lines forecast in the Speech from the Throne at an early date.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, have similar consultations taken place with Canadian mayors and municipalities regarding the proposed legislation?

Mr. Basford: The municipalities were represented at most, if not all, of the consultations with the provinces.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Would he take the first opportunity on motions to outline to the House the line of reasoning which caused him late Thursday night to decide not to call a general election and let the people decide—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that such a statement would have to be made on motions, and I wonder whether that is what the hon. member is suggesting. He will appreciate that he cannot expect the Prime Minister to reply to that question at this time.