

*Oral Questions*

● (1430)

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

ALLEGATION FORMER MINISTER TRIED TO INFLUENCE  
AWARDING OF ADVERTISING CONTRACT—REQUEST FOR  
TABLING OF CONTRACTS WITH R.P.R. COMPANY

**Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. What substance, if any, is there to the report that the former Postmaster General and Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs tried to steer a \$150,000 advertising contract to a personal friend in a Montreal advertising agency?

**Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member must be referring to an article in today's *Citizen* by Mr. Frank Howard which apparently sets out a careful review of internal departmental correspondence of my department. I certainly felt privileged to be able to read that correspondence in this article. I understand that a certain advertising contract that was recommended to Treasury Board was later returned from that place. I was asked whether I wanted to pursue it. I said I thought we would cancel that one and review our advertising policy.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Reynolds:** In view of the fact that approximately 80 per cent of that company's business is with the government and because their only notable client is Sky Shops, will the minister table copies of all contracts between the RPR Company and the government?

**Mr. Abbott:** Mr. Speaker, I presume the hon. member is continuing to ask me about this question. As far as I know, this company is a reputable advertising agency. I do not think there is anything about it that is improper. I simply want to review the advertising policy of the department. That is all. There is no implied suggestion in what I said which would give rise to any of the implication the hon. member is trying to convey.

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**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**

REDUCTION IN PENSION OF CONSTABLE EUGENE HALE—  
REQUEST FOR ACTION TO RESTORE AMOUNT OF DECREASE

**Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway):** With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General, the President of the Treasury Board and the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mrs. Holt:** It is a very serious question, gentlemen. You would be concerned too. In view of the fact that the Canadian Pension Commission admitted error in raising the pension last March of former RCMP Constable Eugene Hale from 20 per

[Mr. Marchand.]

cent to 100 per cent retroactively to 1969, through intervention of Senator Perrault, former Solicitor General, and myself, and now again have cut Hales back to 20 per cent or \$128 a month because his wife, a practical nurse, is caring for him at home in Rossburn, Manitoba instead of a hospital, would you intervene—

**Some hon. Members:** Who?

**Mrs. Holt:** Either the Solicitor General, the President of the Treasury Board or the Prime Minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Epp:** Simma to the cabinet.

**Mrs. Holt:** Would you intervene to reverse this insensitive if not cruel and wasteful decision or, alternatively, if the regulations preclude intervention, would you act to correct such wrong-headed regulations? To the Minister of National Health and Welfare—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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**MANPOWER**

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MEASURES TO REDUCE LEVEL OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I want to take up the answer given by the Minister of Finance to the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby in which he described our present unemployment as largely of a regional structure and therefore not susceptible to correction by macro-economic policies. Given the high level of unemployment in Atlantic Canada, as revealed in statistics released today or yesterday, will the minister be making a statement on motions outlining what additional measures he will be introducing to reduce and eliminate the tremendous economic waste and human misery associated with the high levels of regional unemployment in the Atlantic provinces?

**Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is precisely as a result of our concern for that particular area of high unemployment that agencies such as DREE and LIP are set up. They are heavily weighted in favour of high unemployment. Our Manpower consultative services are on the spot and available to meet with management and unions where difficulties occur. When in some areas of the LIP program there is a slippage of funds, we endeavour to push them into areas where they will be of most assistance.

INACCURACY OF UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS USED AS BASIS  
FOR LIP GRANTS

**Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I find the minister's answer highly unsatisfactory as these agencies have been there for a long while and our