

Inquiries of the Ministry

of Labour. In view of the pressing need is he preparing legislation which will be placed on the order paper prior to Easter to amend the National Housing Act in order to allow technical institutions to borrow money under that act for residence buildings in the same way as universities, which already have that privilege?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): The short answer is no, Mr. Speaker. I might say, however, that a number of proposed amendments to the National Housing Act are under consideration by the government. We have had preliminary discussions with some of the provincial governments which are also interested in the problems, but it is not likely that there will be any such legislation on the parliamentary timetable before Easter.

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say whether during this session of parliament we can expect legislation to carry out the election promise of the Liberal party that N.H.A. lending would be extended to older homes?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Translation]

WINTER WORKS**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PERIOD**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the hon. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

As the unemployment rate is still very high in the so-called designated areas, is the minister considering the extension of the winter works program beyond the deadline in order to help our unemployed?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the winter works program is constantly being studied and revised but, unfortunately, I am not in a position to say whether the present deadline will be changed.

Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question to the hon. minister.

Would he at least agree to study the matter and give us an answer later?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, I agree to study the whole winter works program, and if the hon. member wants to ask other questions about it, I shall be pleased to answer them in due course.

[Mr. Starr.]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Have representations been made to the minister by certain municipalities requesting an extension of the period of time allowed, in view of the fact that they would be unable to complete their winter works due to a severe winter?

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, I remember that some municipalities have asked for an extension of the winter works program, but I do not recall whether it was for the reasons mentioned by the hon. member for Lapointe. However, I shall check and advise him.

[English]

WATER RESOURCES**GREAT LAKES—INQUIRY AS TO ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys whether he has completed the second round of discussions with representatives of the government of Ontario on the problem of pollution of the waters of the great lakes, and if so whether he would be in a position to make a brief statement to the house reporting on this conference, perhaps tomorrow.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for his constant interest in my activities. We had a meeting on Monday last with officials of the government of Ontario on this subject. They presented us with a report of their activities in this field of pollution, particularly in the great lakes, which was most impressive. We agreed that a statement on this subject should be made jointly by the government of Canada and the government of Ontario, and this is presently in preparation.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, if I might say a word or two here, might I ask the minister as a supplementary question whether he has received any request from the government of British Columbia for discussion of the increasing pollution of the Columbia and Kootenay rivers.

Mr. Pepin: Not as of now, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question I should like to ask the minister whether any thought is