

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Starr: This extension is new? It is two years old.

[Later:]

Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeo): I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he would clarify a statement he made earlier today, when he said the government had extended unemployment benefits for two months. Did the minister mean that benefits had been extended or that the period during which benefits may be received had been extended? If so, what extension has been made to benefits, apart from the benefit period?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows that any extension of benefits is a matter for legislation in this house. What has been done, if it is not known to hon. members, can certainly be easily ascertained.

(Translation):

MONTREAL—REPORTED INSTRUCTIONS TO
OFFICIALS RESPECTING UNEMPLOYED

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr). Is it true that, as of tomorrow, by virtue of a decision reached by officers of his department, hundreds of unemployed will no longer be allowed to wait at the unemployment insurance offices in Montreal, and that those calling there to collect their benefits or apply for jobs will no longer be allowed to queue up outside the building?

(Text):

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the translation was not complete, and I am afraid I shall have to look at *Hansard* in order to answer the hon. member's question.

Mr. Johnson: You do not need to answer. He was making a statement.

Mr. Chevrier: The question was quite clear.

Mr. Starr: The translation was not complete.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I recognize the hon. member for Timmins.

Mr. Chevrier: May I put the question in the English language, since the minister felt that the translation system was not working properly?

Mr. Starr: I did not say that. I said the translation was not complete.

Mr. Chevrier: I accept the minister's correction; he says the translation was not

complete. I wonder whether I might be allowed to ask the question in English, because I think it is in order. The question is whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken by the officers of the minister's department that beginning tomorrow the thousands of unemployed who have hitherto lined up before the offices of the unemployment insurance commission in Montreal will no longer be able to do so, and neither will they be allowed to stand in line in order to get their benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, if any instructions of that nature have gone out, then of course they have gone out on the direction of the unemployment insurance commissioners. I most certainly will look into the matter and see whether that is true.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

NEW YORK—REPORTED NON-PARTICIPATION
BY CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. D. Crestohl (Cartier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the minister aware that among the 66 countries showing exhibits at the United States world fair in New York there is no Canadian pavilion, no tourist promotion booth and no Canadian products are individually displayed; and that all this was reported in a Canadian Press dispatch from New York several days ago? Has the minister any comment?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The answer, Mr. Speaker, is that we are not in a position to exhibit at every trade fair that takes place in other countries. We exhibit at a very large number of them. The expenditure—I am calling on my memory now—is close to half a million dollars for government participation in assisting businessmen who are exhibiting at trade fairs.

This matter can be discussed when the estimates of trade and commerce are before the house. We can discuss the number of trade fairs in which we are interested and in which we participate. Trade fairs are going on in almost every country of the world, and we simply cannot take part in all of them. We are doing a great piece of active work in exhibiting at trade fairs, and the results have been highly satisfactory. The ideal home exhibition in London was one of the best examples of Canadian exhibits at a fair.

If the hon. member wishes to propose, when the estimates of trade and commerce are before the house, that we should expend more money on trade fairs I will perhaps support him.