

Inquiries of the Ministry

fused reports, will the minister advise the House whether firm commitments of federal financial support have been given to the sponsors of the Montreal bid for the summer Olympic games and to the sponsors of the Garibaldi winter games bid and, if so, the amount of federal aid pledged to both?

Mr. Speaker: I have some doubts as to the urgency of the question asked by the hon. member. If there is urgency that is not apparent to me, perhaps the hon. member would like to give notice of the question so that it might be considered and debated at the time of adjournment. Insofar as the supplementary question is concerned, that is the type of statistical or detailed information which normally is given by way of a written answer.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE—CHANGES IN MANPOWER TRAINING RULES**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Arising out of the increase in unemployment during the month of December, which historically is likely to have increased by another one per cent to 2 per cent by now, I wish to ask the minister whether, in view of the fact that the largest group of unemployed is in the 16 to 19 year bracket, he has considered or is considering changing the rules with regard to manpower training so that these young, unskilled people may be given training during their enforced unemployment?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the rule to which the hon. member refers. It has been under consideration in the past and at present that aspect of the program, as well as others, is before the Advisory Council on Manpower and Immigration. It is also being considered by the deputy minister in conjunction with the provincial deputy ministers. I cannot say whether any change will be made or when, but I want to assure the hon. member that the matter is under active consideration.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question. In view of the fact that these discussions are likely to take some time, have the minister and his department evolved some way by which these young unemployed Canadians may be given some opportunity for retraining, advanced education, or some other opportunity to enter into remunerative work immediately?

[Mr. Pringle.]

Mr. Speaker: It appears to me that the information sought by the hon. member should be given to the House in the form of a general statement on motions.

Mr. Lewis: Then may I ask the minister whether he would make a statement on motions with regard to this particularly difficult and painful part of the unemployment problem affecting young people from 16 to 19 this winter?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give an undertaking at the moment to make a statement on motions on this matter.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NIGERIA—RESPONSE TO OFFERS OF AID**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would he bring the House up to date with regard to any response which may have been received by the government from the government of Nigeria regarding either offers of direct aid by the Canadian government or offers of aid by Canadian and other organizations such as Joint Church Aid?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I cannot add anything to what I said yesterday about the position of Joint Church Aid and Canairelief. I think the statements by the leaders of the Nigerian government speak for themselves. However, I would like to say to the House that the money that was approved by the government and turned over to the Nigerian authorities is now being spent for the relief of hunger in Nigeria, including the amounts of money turned over to the Nigerian Rehabilitation Commission, the Nigerian Red Cross, and UNICEF.

Mr. MacLean: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister assure the House we are correct in assuming that the government made clear to the government of Nigeria that the offer of Canairelief and Joint Church Aid was made on the basis that this food and these facilities would be made available under the management of any organization acceptable to the government of Nigeria?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will recall that the House of Commons passed a resolution to that effect which was transmitted immediately to the Nigerian authorities.