

Oral Questions

tary to the minister is whether, in view of the importance of the program, he has sought an invitation from leaders of organized labour in Canada to appear personally at their meetings in order to use his good offices and great eloquence to help persuade them to adopt this program and also to answer any questions they may put. Is the minister prepared to involve himself personally in this enterprise?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that at this stage representatives of labour wish to have discussion among themselves. At a later stage if they were to issue an invitation I would be available and do my best to sell the program.

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SPORTS**SUGGESTED USE OF OLYMPIC FUNDS TO AID ATHLETES**

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Because a number of Canada's athletes who are training for the 1976 Olympics are on welfare, unemployment insurance and almost all have gone into debt as a result of their training—in fact there are cases of malnutrition, some lack heating due to unpaid bills, some teams have disbanded, others are in cramped quarters and so on—I wonder if the minister could advise the House whether he is prepared to take the necessary steps to have funds raised under government and commercial Olympic programs directed immediately toward direct grant aids for our athletes. I emphasize the word "direct", Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, first, if the hon. member is aware of athletes who have serious nutrition problems and are on social welfare, I would be happy to have a list of them and examine their cases specifically.

Second, action has been taken in that field, jointly with the Plan of 1976 Games, in order to increase assistance to athletes.

Third, my colleague, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, has given instructions that manpower centres be made available particularly to athletes to help them find a job in particular situations.

Finally, this afternoon, I will meet the athletes' representatives to discuss the whole matter.

[*English*]

**SUGGESTION RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMERCIALS
CAUSING PUBLIC TO BELIEVE ALL OLYMPIC FUNDS TO GO TO
ATHLETES—REQUEST FOR ALTERATION**

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that the minister is finally willing to accept the invitation of myself and my colleague the hon. member for Fraser Valley West to meet with athletes. It has taken him about three weeks to agree to that.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

My supplementary question is for the Acting Prime Minister. Because of the fact that athletes who qualify for federal grants receive a mere \$50 a month maximum and there are statements of anger and militancy and that dropping out is becoming widespread and in view of the fact that existing radio and TV commercials are misleading in that Canadians are led to believe—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a supplementary question, will he please put it directly?

Mr. Jelinek: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Because of the fact that radio and television commercials are misleading and lead us to believe that all funds raised go to the aid of athletes, could the minister assure this House that these commercials, particularly commercials under the federal jurisdiction, will be altered so that they do not mislead the Canadian public further?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as to the first part of the hon. member's assertion, I want to stress the fact that I indicated very clearly I was prepared to meet the athletes any time and as soon as they are available. The suitable time for the athletes was today and I arranged to be available to meet them. As to the second part of the hon. member's question, I think he knows the answer.

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[*English*]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**GOVERNMENT VIEW OF FACTORS CAUSING INFLATION**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, mine is a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the government's earlier position that inflation was largely caused by international factors, could the minister indicate whether that it is still the government's position and, if so, what steps is he taking to deal with those international factors?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it was the position of the government in 1973 and 1974 that the primary forces of inflation were imbalance of supply, and demand both worldwide in Canada.

Mr. Stanfield: And the weather.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): This provoked a sharp rise in commodity prices and was compounded, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition has reminded me, by the weather which produced disastrous harvests in some parts of the world and tripled the price of grain from \$2 to \$6 a bushel. Conditions were compounded as well by the quadrupling of oil prices in 1973-74. As I have said to the House on several occasions, in the November budget and in response to the motion from the NDP commenting on economic policy, the primary forces at the moment are cost-push thrusts in the economy.

Mr. Yewchuk: A supplementary question. Am I to take it from the minister's long and tortuous answer that the government has changed its position and now feels that