

Inquiries of the Ministry

regional economic expansion program, in order to accelerate employment in these areas, especially since the program is slow in getting started in areas of critically high unemployment?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we are already doing it and, wherever possible, we will speed up the work.

UNEMPLOYMENT—APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF NEW
JOBS IN QUEBEC IN 1971

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the minister.

In view of the fact that estimates set at 50,000 the increase in 1971 of the labour force in the province of Quebec, can he give us an idea of the number of jobs his department will create during the year?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I doubt that I can give exact numbers at the present time.

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT—PLANS TO ASSIST WEST
COAST FISHERMEN

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Inasmuch as his licence limitation program for salmon fishing has driven fishermen out of the industry and into the ranks of the unemployed, and inasmuch as the minister is not willing to go to Prince Rupert or at least Vancouver to discuss the matter and face the fishermen whom he is driving out of the industry, would he be prepared—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member recognizes that the form of the question is not in order. Perhaps he might come to the question.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): The form of the question was most necessary, Mr. Speaker, in order to put the matter in perspective. Would the minister be prepared, even if we have to wait until Monday, to stay here and engage in a debate during which he could outline what plans his department has to cope with the chaos that has been created?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. According to the roster he was to be present in the House today, but—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member asking a supplementary question?

Mr. Scott: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I believe there are still a number of supplementary questions. I appreciate that hon. members have other matters they would like to raise but perhaps we might have a few more supplementary questions first.

[Mr. McGrath.]

UNEMPLOYMENT—SPECIAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION
PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE JOBS IN ATLANTIC REGION

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the above average increase in unemployment in the Atlantic region between November and December as reported by DBS, and also in view of the possible diminution of the special areas program for expansion, can the minister indicate whether his department will in fact implement special programs to deal with the abnormally high rate of unemployment in the Atlantic region?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the very object of the program is to create jobs in the Maritimes in particular, and also in Quebec.

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UNEMPLOYMENT—ASSURANCE THAT LOAN TO QUEBEC
WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE JOBS

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance.

In answer to my colleague of Lotbinière, he stated a moment ago that amounts of \$150 million and \$68 million would be paid to Quebec to help that province fight unemployment. Now, I would like to know whether the minister is sure that Quebec will use this money to create new jobs and not to make up the deficit of its Department of Education.

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Of course, I cannot accept all the facts which the hon. member put forward because I am not sure whether they are correct. I question reliability of his information. However, I should indicate that our information from the province of Quebec is that they will use the \$68 million to proceed immediately with work with which otherwise they might not be able to proceed with.

UNEMPLOYMENT—EFFECT OF SEAL QUOTA SYSTEM

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): My question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry and it concerns unemployment. Would the minister consider eliminating the discriminatory quota system which allows the Norwegians to take 100,000 seals as opposed to the Canadian quota of 50,000, thereby putting Canadians on an unequal footing with the Norwegians?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think we are getting somewhat away from the original question. But I note that the hon. member has an important question to ask, and I will come to him in a moment.