

HIGH WATER LEVEL ON LAKE ONTARIO—REQUEST THAT PICKERING TOWNSHIP APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE BY ARMED FORCES BE RECONSIDERED

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the recent communication by the township of Pickering to the department which indicated that the township was willing to assume the out of pocket expenses of the Department of National Defence in lieu of the fact that the province will not do so, will the minister reconsider that application for assistance.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen that particular communication.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I indicated a moment ago that we should go to the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

BENEFIT CONTROL—ALLEGATION THAT CERTAIN EMPLOYEES MAY BE GUILTY OF FRAUD—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

In view of the fact that the interim report of the advisory committee on unemployment insurance mentions that some employers cheat by giving certificates of dismissal to employees who leave their work simply to rest, because they prefer not to work, could the minister tell the House what he intends to do to identify the employers and bring them to justice if necessary?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, in the first place, the advisory committee has not yet reported to me, contrary to some suggestions by the press. Second, if there is any evidence or incidents of fraud on the part of employers or employees in terms of collusion or otherwise, it is the intention of the commission to investigate and, where substantiated, to prosecute.

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALLEGED ABUSES—REQUEST FOR TABLING

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House when the report of the advisory committee will be in his hands and whether he intends to table it in the House at the same time?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am just as keen as other hon. members to get the report. I have talked to the chairman of the advisory committee. There are many complex matters before the committee and they tell me they wish to have a few more days. It may be that it will come in two stages, first, an examination of the program and its concept at the national level and, second, an

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examination of the program as it is implemented in the field. They are conscious of the need to proceed quickly, but I hope hon. members will permit them time to complete their job.

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GRAIN

ADEQUACY OF PROJECTED PLANTINGS OF WHEAT, BARLEY, RAPESEED AND FLAX TO MEET DEMAND—POSSIBILITY OF INCENTIVE

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Since Statistics Canada has come out with a crop report indicating that wheat, barley, rapeseed and flax will be down this year and down from the minister's own recommendations and also from what the government feels is the necessary level to meet demand, I should like to ask the minister whether the government is contemplating giving any incentive in any form to ensure that adequate acreages of these crops will be planted this spring?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is not accurately depicting the results from the Statistics Canada survey since the indications of plantings are significantly up in wheat, up in barley and very close to the same level for rapeseed as in the previous year. The figures are down from the suggestions we made in our March 1 letter, mainly because farmers intend to leave more land in summerfallow than we had suggested. This, of course, can still change depending on weather conditions in the prairie region. The fact is that the distribution of acreage between the various crops is very encouraging, particularly the very strong emphasis remaining on barley. There remains some time for further consideration by farmers of increased acreages in all crops.

Mr. Murta: Since the minister has raised the point that farmers will be planting approximately 24 million acres of wheat and since the government recommended that the figure should be approximately 28 million acres—I disagree with him on this point and also so far as barley is concerned—if the proposed plantings are followed by farmers, and since the amount cited by Statistics Canada will not be adequate to meet demands in the coming year, does the government intend to give any indication that it will increase the initial prices for Wheat Board grains and will it also give a further incentive to rapeseed producers for this coming year?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, we did already indicate an increase of 15 cents per bushel in the case of barley as a specific encouragement to the production of barley and as I said, the relationship of barley to wheat is very encouraging indeed. The hon. member again is making a mistake with regard to what we suggested to the farmers. If he reads the March 1 letter very carefully he will see we said they should plant a maximum of 28 million—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!