

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

### REGULATION LIMITING PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO CLAIMANTS—APPROVAL OF MINISTER

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration relating to a regulation issued on March 1 that affects all persons interested in unemployment insurance. Did he have prior knowledge of and did he approve the regulation put into force on March 1 which stated in part:

Commission employees do not have the task of informing interested people that it is time to make a claim or invite them to make such claims or make them aware of their eventual rights to such claims.

Was the minister aware of this regulation and did he approve of the same?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to have time to examine the purported regulation to see exactly the context in which it was put. I am not fully aware of it at this stage.

**Mr. Alexander:** While the minister is investigating as to the truth, would he kindly advise why it was necessary for the commission to issue such a regulation or to have such a regulation approved, in light of the fact that its administrative costs jumped from \$26 million in 1971-72 to about \$144 million for 1973-74, which regulation would be in direct contravention of the new enlightened Unemployment Insurance Act?

**Mr. Andras:** Most certainly it is our intention to take a much more personalized approach in conveying information to claimants and interested parties. I will be glad to look into the allegation of the hon. member and see exactly what this all purports to mean.

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## REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

### NORTHERN ONTARIO—GOVERNMENT ACTION FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of his recent discussions with Ontario government ministers and officials regarding regional development in Northern Ontario, can he inform the House what action the government intends to take with respect to economic development in Northern Ontario?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the meetings to which the hon. member refers occurred last Thursday. Immediately following those meetings a working party of federal and provincial officials went to work. They have had one meeting. I believe there is another slated for the early part of this week. One of the preliminary matters they will be discussing is ways and means by which we can make a bigger impact on regional development in Northern Ontario.

## Oral Questions

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Can the minister inform the House whether agreement was reached with respect to designating special areas in Northern Ontario and the establishment of a Northern Ontario Crown corporation?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Mr. Speaker, we did not go into the specifics of whether the mechanism of a Crown corporation is the most appropriate. However, I think it is fair to say that so far as the government of Ontario was concerned it was in full agreement with us that priority attention ought to be given to Northern Ontario and to certain parts of eastern Ontario.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us whether the government is prepared to take unilateral action if at any time the government of Ontario drags its feet with regard to economic development in Northern Ontario?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question is hypothetical. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Central Nova on a supplementary.

### IMPLICATIONS OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW LEGISLATION—DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES—POSSIBLE CHALLENGE ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the very considerable and obvious implications for regional development policies inherent in the proposed foreign investment review act, has the minister discussed this subject with the various provincial premiers and with his colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and has he any information on whether any province or provinces contemplate challenging the proposed legislation on constitutional grounds?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, so far as the second part of the question is concerned, no province has given me any such indication of intention. However, we did have very comprehensive discussions with a number of provinces on the whole question of foreign investment and also on the question of concessional financing which, as the hon. member knows, is of considerable importance and concern to eastern Canada.

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[Translation]

## FINANCE

### GOVERNMENT BANK DEPOSITS NOT BEARING INTEREST—POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF POLICY

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

Is the government considering the possibility of modifying its present guidelines concerning no-interest deposits which it leaves in reserve in chartered banks?