

Inquiries of the Ministry

reply, but I have suggested on earlier occasions that questions of this nature are normally placed on the Order Paper.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, 32 questions in my name have now been on the Order Paper for some months and have not been answered. I have to try to get answers somewhere.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDIAN AFFAIRS**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WEST COAST NATIVE FISHERMEN—REQUEST THAT MINISTER ATTEND MEETING**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Incidentally, I congratulate him on attaining a batting average of 33 per cent in his required roster appearances this week. I asked his colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, the other day a question with respect to the situation of at least 100 native Indian fishermen who will be put out of work. The Minister of Fisheries told us there was a finance plan available under the Indian Fishermen's Assistance Board. Now that the minister is here, can he explain what this program is and tell us when it will come into effect?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): First, I should like to congratulate the hon. member on his candidacy; it is too bad he will not get 33 per cent of the votes, but I wish him the best of luck. As far as Indian fishermen in British Columbia are concerned, I am well aware of the situation to which he refers. I know that some fishing companies are cutting down their fleets. We have some funds available. I have sent some of my officials to the area; we shall try to assess the situation and adjust our financial program so as to assist as many Indians as possible to stay in business as good fishermen.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Might I say that my objective is not 33 per cent; it is much higher than that. Inasmuch as the Minister of Fisheries has refused an invitation to attend a meeting called by the North Coast District Council in Prince Rupert, for the 25th of this month to deal with this matter, will the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development be prepared to attend that meeting and speak to the people personally?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I have received an invitation to go there and I am afraid I could not accept such an invitation at this time. However, I have on several occasions met here in Ottawa the leaders of the Indian Association concerned with fishermen and I will always be pleased to see them. If I had any occasion to travel to British Columbia—

[Mr. Speaker.]

[English]

TRANSPORT**TRENT AND RIDEAU CANALS—DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE THEREFOR**

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): My question can be answered by either the Minister of Transport or the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It deals with the Trent and Rideau canal systems in Ontario. Under whose jurisdiction do canals fall at the present time, as they seem to be in a state of limbo?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would think the hon. member's question should be placed on the Order Paper.

Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, this is a serious question, since the navigation season—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is suggesting that questions placed on the Order Paper are not serious questions. Even if it is serious, this is the type of question which should be placed on the Order Paper. If there is urgency, as there may very well be, the hon. member can give me notice of his intention to raise the matter at the time of the adjournment and it will be given precedence.

Mr. Scott: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

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MANPOWER**PLANS FOR PROVISION OF SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): My question is for the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. It relates to student employment during the coming summer months. I know this subject has been alluded to several times this week but in view of the representations all hon. members are receiving I should like to ask the hon. gentleman whether, some time during the next week or two, he will give an outline to the House of Commons of the general type of plan the government has in mind for student employment. I realize that some of these plans take a long time to work out—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has asked his question and perhaps the Acting Prime Minister might be given an opportunity to reply.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The Minister of Manpower did make reference to plans that are under discussion. These will be brought before cabinet shortly. I do not know whether it will be possible to give an answer within the next week or so but certainly the matter is under active consideration.

Mr. Nesbitt: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will allow a supplementary but if hon. members will look around the House they will see