

Oral Questions

as the basis of comparison and, if so, would he undertake to give to the House his own records as to what our strike experience is in relation to industrial countries that are our competitors and trading partners?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I know the department has looked into this area at various times from some indication of how we are doing relative to other countries. I do not think we do this on a continuing basis, but I will check and find out when last we made any comparative findings and advise the hon. member of them.

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INDUSTRY

MICROSYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL—KNOWLEDGE OF DEPARTMENT THAT MANAGEMENT WAS FALLING IN HANDS OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF I.T. AND T.

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. At any time after the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce authorized the significant financial assistance given to Microsystems International, did the department become concerned that management of Microsystems and the management of Bell Northern, which were exerting great influence on Microsystems, was falling into the hands of former employees of I.T. & T. of the United States; and if they did have this concern, did they express this concern to those companies?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any such concern on the part of the department.

MICROSYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL—INQUIRY WHETHER DEPARTMENT MONITORED EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce assisted Microsystems to the tune of \$36.7 million by way of grants and loans, most of which has been lost, did the minister or officials of his department authorize or have in place a monitoring system backed up by accountants, auditors or other financial experts to see that the public funds committed by his department were being properly and wisely spent?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, there has been a regular review of the spending with respect to government moneys regarding I.T. & C. and this particular company. I can tell the hon. member that we have been in negotiation with the company subsequent to its decision to close down, and we are very hopeful that we will be able to repatriate the loan of \$6.7 million. We also feel that there is a very good chance that the technology which the company has developed over a period of years will be made available to Canadian companies in the future.

[Mr. Fraser.]

MANPOWER

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO PROGRAM FOR UNEMPLOYED STUDENTS

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, to the question addressed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration by the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe, the minister replied that with the increase in the funding of money for students there would be an expansion of the OFY program. It is my understanding that the OFY program has been completed. Has the minister some new program in mind, or is he going to provide money to municipalities in order that the problem of unemployed students can be resolved?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will re-examine my answer yesterday I think he will find I answered that precisely. I cannot elaborate further at this stage.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS

REQUEST FOR LEAVE FOR EMPLOYEES TRAINING FOR OLYMPIC GAMES

Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the President of the Treasury Board.

Could the minister tell the House whether the Treasury Board intends to review its guidelines concerning federal employees who are training for the Olympic Games which will take place in Montreal in 1976?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, following the representations of members and particularly of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, it was decided to give athletes who are working for the federal government a three-month leave with pay, which will enable them to get well prepared and thus win as many medals as possible at the Olympics.

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● (1450)

[English]

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF FIGURES SUPPORTING MINISTER'S CONTENTION CANADIAN WAGE INCREASES EXCESSIVE—COMPARISON WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in light of recent analyses indicating some difficulties with the position of the Minister of Finance that high wage rates are pricing Canadian goods out of the market, will the minister include as an appendix to the budget an analysis of comparative unit labour costs over the past five years among OECD countries, including Canada?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as has been said earlier to one of the members,