

Inquiries of the Ministry

ment and economic matters in general. I must inform this House that since I gave this answer yesterday, it seems that we shall agree on a date which will be rather late in fall, but again I cannot say anything until the premiers agree with me concerning one of the dates which I have suggested to them, be it in October, November or even later. I am in no position to convene them myself.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I gather that the answer to my question is no.

[English]

In view of the fact that the suggestion box program as carried on within the Public Service has evidently been very successful in getting some right things done, again I ask with all respect and courtesy, would the Prime Minister consider extending this program to my colleagues and myself and hon. members to my left so that we could deal directly with departments and perhaps get some action with regard to the creation of jobs?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South on a supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: I do not know whether it is exactly a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: My understanding is that perhaps other hon. members have supplementaries that are exactly such.

[Translation]

The House might allow the Chair to recognize the hon. member for Joliette who seems to have a supplementary.

OLD AGE SECURITY—LOWERING OF PENSIONABLE AGE
TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): That is a fact, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Prime Minister, who is searching for a solution to the unemployment of those under 25 years of age, if, when he meets with provincial ministers, he would consider proposing the creation of an old age security pension for which one would be eligible at 60, thus reducing present unemployment by more than 50 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: I have a feeling that the hon. member's question has already been asked yesterday or the day before.

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT—PARTICIPATION WITH PROVINCES IN
WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary which a reading of *Hansard* of yesterday will clearly indicate was not answered by the Prime Minister. It is this. As a winter works program is by far the cheapest and easiest way to provide work needed by people in the winter period and as such a program requires planning now to make it effective at that time—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. Hees: I thought I heard the referee's whistle, Mr. Speaker. I guess it was just the usual noise from the other side. I will continue. Is the government now planning to advise the provinces that it intends to participate with them in a winter works program so that planning can start now and this program can be effective in the winter months?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: A further supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must again today, as I did yesterday, call for the co-operation of hon. members. The suggestion was made at the end of the question period yesterday that there were 20 members who were waiting for an opportunity to ask their questions. I recognize the same 20 members today. I hope that before the end of the question period I shall be given an opportunity to recognize them. I suggest to hon. members that if we spend half the question period on the question asked originally by one hon. member—on behalf of others, and I appreciate that—it becomes materially, physically and metaphysically impossible for the Chair to have all hon. members recognized before the end of the question period. I invite my colleagues to co-operate with the Chair and with their colleagues in this respect.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I have an excellent supplementary but I will bow to your ruling and not ask it.

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MANPOWER

POLICY STUDY IN LIGHT OF CRITICISM BY ECONOMIC
COUNCIL

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration in the hope that perhaps he or his officials have at least skimmed through the annual review of the Economic Council of Canada. In view of the criticism of the manpower policy in this review, particularly that the policy is not achieving the goal of greater efficiency in manpower use in Canada, I wonder whether the minister has studied this problem and has some changes in mind in respect of the set-up of his department and the law governing it?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this report deserves a much more thorough review than anybody could have given it at this point in time. We have noted the tremendous increase in employment on a year to year basis and in recent months in Canada. Despite a very impressive increase in terms of employment, there is still ongoing challenge with regard to unemployment. It is, of course, true so far as the manpower department is concerned that both its placement functions and its training and retraining function in respect of the training and retraining of individuals are bound to be less effective in periods where jobs are relatively more difficult for people to obtain. The record of the training programs, however, indicates a very significant improvement in the earning levels, in the performance levels and in the employment levels of those persons