

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

cannot evidently say more than the following: the communique was drawn up partly in English and partly in French and the translators have done their best to give the same meaning to both texts. I, for one, do not see any significant difference between the English expression "expressed its sympathy for this basic social objective" and the French expression "se déclare en accord avec cet objectif social fondamental". The Conference has not decided which of the two versions would be the official one, and I think that under the circumstances, everyone may choose the meaning he prefers.

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

The Prime Minister will agree that there is a difference between the two versions and that if in Quebec one refers to the French version, that would be quite a different proposition from, let us say, in Ontario—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

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[English]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****LAPSING OF SEASONAL BENEFITS IN MAY—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS**

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour. Is his department giving consideration to the problems that will arise for the very large number of people who are now drawing seasonal unemployment insurance benefits when these benefits cease automatically on May 15 if they are still unemployed? Is the government giving consideration to what can be done to alleviate the ill effects of this situation on the people concerned as well as on the municipalities which will have to carry them on welfare if something is not done?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the question is hypothetical to the extent that we do not know what the employment figures will be in the month of May.

We do not know what the position will be on May 15 and what will happen to the people who were drawing seasonal unemployment insurance benefits. If and when any change in government policy in regard to extending the period is arrived at, it will be announced in the usual manner in the House.

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**WELFARE****MEETING OF CERTAIN LIBERAL MEMBERS WITH METRO TORONTO COUNCIL**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Since certain Liberal members are meeting with the Metro Toronto council today, which meeting, I believe, is not being blessed by the local ministers from the city of Toronto, I

[Mr. Trudeau.]

wonder whether the Prime Minister and the government have indicated to these members any particular direction the government is following regarding the great problem of welfare—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate.

**Mr. Alexander:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Hamilton West on a point of order.

**Mr. Alexander:** If Your Honour was worried about the preamble to my question, I can certainly cut it short. Would the Prime Minister indicate whether any special indication was given these members regarding what to say to the Metro Toronto council—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest to the hon. member that his inquiry is not in order.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT****IMMEDIATE AMENDMENT TO HELP THOSE OUT OF WORK LONGER THAN SIX MONTHS**

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Labour whether the government has any immediate plan to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act in order to try to help the 108,000 people who have been out of work for longer than six months?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. That question, of course, has been asked on a number of occasions. I suggest to the hon. member and to the House that if this kind of information is to be given to the House by the government it should be given by way of a statement on motions. The hon. member is inviting the government to make a general statement. Perhaps he would indicate whether this is what he would like the minister to do in due course.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** No, Mr. Speaker, not in due course; I should like the minister to answer, yes or no, whether the government has a plan. It is quite a simple question.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister has made it very clear that there will be a complete overhaul of the Unemployment Insurance Act very shortly. This consideration has been preceded by a white paper and by an in-depth study of the proposal by the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration. I think the Prime Minister has indicated that we should be tabling a bill very soon, so I am afraid that the hon. gentleman is going to have to contain his impatience until that time.

**REQUEST FOR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER TO EXAMINE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS**

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the administrative problems in regard to payment of unemployment insurance seem to be increas-