

Oral Questions

Walter Rudnicki was advised about being on that particular list at that time or was anyone else advised they were on such a list?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to confirm the presence of any individuals named on that list for the obvious reason that it must be prejudicial to the reputation of any person whose name would be on such a list.

● (1450)

POSSIBILITY PERSON ON BLACKLIST COULD AFFECT SECURITY OF COUNTRY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question of course was directed only to the case of Walter Rudnicki who himself has insisted that his name was placed on that list. As a supplementary question, may I ask the Solicitor General if he can advise the House how it is that people on that list, who may be employees of Central Mortgage and Housing or DREE could adversely affect the security of this country in the terms defined in the Official Secrets Act? Is there information that those persons could have adversely affected it within the meaning of that act?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my initial response, the sole recommendation made by the Solicitor General at the time was that the people whose names had been identified be briefed on the proper security procedures and the importance of not leaking government information or government documents which contained classified government information.

* * *

MANPOWER

CANADA WORKS PROGRAM—SUGGESTION PROGRAM FOR NEWFOUNDLAND BE ON EMERGENCY BASIS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that 55,000 people in the province of Newfoundland are drawing unemployment insurance and another 9,000 are drawing short term assistance—these figures have been confirmed by the Unemployment Insurance Commission and by the Newfoundland government—thereby representing 35 per cent of the work force; and in view of the fact, as pointed out by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby yesterday that the minister's works program is based on the Statistics Canada figure of approximately 14 per cent, may I ask the minister what he intends to do about what has to be an extraordinary situation? Would he accept the suggestion that he look at the possibility of ongoing federal programs being expedited on an emergency basis to alleviate this critical situation?

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): First of all, Mr. Speaker, the criteria for the new Canada Works Program will not be based on the criteria for

[Mr. Leggatt.]

LIP. We are endeavouring to improve on that. I am meeting with my officials to go over it and see if we can bring more equity into the program so that we have a more realistic determination of the figures. As far as expediting it, that is what we are endeavouring to do. But each time we endeavour to expedite it, representations are made in the House that deadline dates be extended and that we need more time. What I want to do if possible is expedite the programs that we have; get the applications in and get them approved so that the people can get to work.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Realizing the seriousness of the problem may I ask the minister if he would be prepared to send a team of his senior officials to Newfoundland to discuss joint programs with the Newfoundland government which is already seized with the seriousness of the situation and is trying to meet it with whatever remedies lie within their jurisdiction.

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, we are ahead of the hon. member. We are constantly meeting with officials from Newfoundland. We have a Newfoundland Federal-Provincial Manpower Needs Committee. We look into all of these areas. I think the fact that in the final analysis we put something in excess of \$17 million into that particular region under the LIP program indicates our concern and our knowledge of the situation as expressed by the hon. member. I do not think it is anything new.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL REFRIGERATED RAILWAY CARS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF POTATOES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Last November the minister indicated that because of the alarming situation with respect to the deterioration, both in numbers and in quality, of refrigerated cars for moving potatoes from eastern Canada, that he would be preparing a submission to cabinet suggesting that the government place on order something like 800 to 1,000 refrigerated boxcars or insulated boxcars in order to service this traffic which would certainly be hampered very much in the future if not this year if such provisions were not made. Has that memorandum been prepared and submitted?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, a lot of work has been done on it and it should be submitted soon.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister could indicate whether he has achieved some measure of agreement with the governments of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick on this. At stake here is a very large question with respect to future transportation, both by rail and by other modes.