

saying that indeed the Chemcell Company employees at Montmagny were eligible for social benefits provided under the legislation. Of course it will be necessary for them to meet the criteria set forth in the regulations.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I want to direct a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the minister's answer, but as very precise questions are asked us by the people concerned, the point would be to know whether the pensions provided under this legislation will be such as to allow these workers to receive an income during a given time, until they have found another job.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, an official from my department went to Quebec City or Montmagny—I could not say which—in order to meet union leaders and give them explanations about this legislation and its regulations.

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[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT IN ONTARIO

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I would like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister regarding the very serious plight in which Ontario finds itself in view of the fact that the DBS report has indicated that it is notable that the increase in unemployment over the year was largely concentrated in Ontario, which I submit has a very drastic and damaging effect on the economic growth of that province. Can the Acting Prime Minister advise the House, and particularly Ontario, whether any definite steps are being contemplated in order to alleviate this very serious situation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): As the Minister of Finance has said, the whole purpose of the Canadian government's policy is to reduce the level of unemployment in Canada, and when the general level of unemployment goes down Ontario, as the central province, is likely to go with it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: They will all sink together.

Mr. Muir: Your thinking is as bad as that of Marchand.

Mr. Alexander: There is no question about the province of Ontario going down, but in light of the fact it has been recently reported that some 20 companies will be laying off some 2,000 employees, which of course will have further detrimental effects, can the minister now assure the House that he will discuss this very serious matter at the earliest opportunity with the province of Ontario in order that some sort of agreement can be reached whereby the situation can be relieved and alleviated?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. gentleman is aware that the Ministers of Finance are meeting on July 12, and Ontario will be there to lay its problems before the federal government and the other provinces.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

NORTHERN ELECTRIC LIMITED—MEASURES TO PREVENT TRANSFER FROM QUEBEC TO ONTARIO

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce a question related to that which my colleague has just asked.

Since the province of Quebec is particularly hard hit by unemployment and that it is also rumoured that the Northern Electric Company intends to move its work force and transfer its secondary contracts to Ontario, can the minister inform us whether the managers of that company have been approached by his department and what measures he proposes to take to avoid the transfer to Ontario of the Northern Electric Company Ltd.?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the government cannot forbid the transfer of companies from one province to another.

I have personally been in touch with the president of this company and he has assured me that none of his decisions was dictated by any unfavourable disposition toward Quebec or by the desire to reduce the work force of the company in that province.

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[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES FOR MAY UNDER OLD FORMULA

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce if he would approach the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and ascertain what the seasonally adjusted figures would have been for the month of May had the old formula been used instead of the new formula introduced in January? Would he make this information available to the House so hon. members can make comparisons?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to do that if it would be useful, but on a number of occasions I have been assured that the difference would be marginal and immaterial. *En passant*, may I remind the hon. member that Statistics Canada is the official name of the institution—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the minister that he should not pursue that. I wish to bring to the attention of hon. members that we are running short of time and many members will be disappointed. We have considered only two subjects since the beginning of the question period.