

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): The answer is no. We are, however, looking into and, indeed, endeavouring to assist in the establishment of a future market for lumber in this country.

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN QUEBEC

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

On March 18 next, the Chamber of Commerce of the Province of Quebec will hold a symposium on the development of northern Quebec. Could the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion tell the House whether he intends to attend this symposium or to delegate to it one or more officials of his department in order to become acquainted with the studies that will be carried out?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I will check to see whether I was invited; then I will see if time allows me to attend.

SAINT-HYACINTHE—ESTABLISHMENT AS DESIGNATED AREA

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): In turn I would like to address a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

In view of the high and rising unemployment rate in the St. Hyacinthe region, could the minister tell the House whether he has decided to set it up as a designated area?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): No, not yet, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Ricard: I wish to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

About what date can we expect to have a decision in the matter?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I am not yet thinking of any particular date.

[English]

DESIGNATION OF OTHER AREAS IN SASKATCHEWAN AND ELSEWHERE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has the government yet reached a decision

Inquiries of the Ministry

regarding the designation of new areas of Saskatchewan as requested by the premier of that province, and are any other regions of the country under consideration for designation?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): We have not reached any decisions yet in this connection.

An hon. Member: Will you ever?

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

BARRIE, ONT.—PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): May I ask the Minister of Labour whether he has received a telegram from the United Electrical Workers of Barrie complaining about the lack of action and the delay in connection with unemployment insurance claims?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, and due to the courtesy of the hon. member for Simcoe North I am able to report that all these claims have been dealt with, and those people who are entitled to retroactive payments have received them. In addition, I have asked for a full report in order to ascertain who is responsible—whether it is the officials of the Unemployment Insurance Commission, in which case disciplinary action will be taken, or whether it is the employers, as I suspect may have been the case, because their total records were not available at the proper time.

An hon. Member: That is a good answer.

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

TEXTILES—ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

In view of the present difficult situation faced by the textile industry and knowing that thousand of workers of that industry are to organize a march on Ottawa to meet the minister, can he can tell us whether he will soon announce the policy of limitation of textile exports, which would benefit Canadian industry?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am doing my very best to do so.