

[Translation]

Hon. Jeanne Sauv  (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, such surveys are not usually made public because of the representative character of the researchers entrusted with them. This feasibility study will make a complete inventory of the situation, including, I trust, the excellent studies performed in Edmonton.

[English]

Mr. Harding: Would the minister consider enlarging the present five-group, management committee which has been set up for this proposed study, to include other research groups interested in thermonuclear fusion or, alternatively, that when a draft proposal is prepared a representative group from across Canada will meet to examine that draft and come up with proposals to be submitted to the government?

[Translation]

Mrs. Sauv : Mr. Speaker, when I have the report of this research group, I will be able to provide for participation by the Edmonton group. This is a feasibility study project and we have not yet decided whether we shall launch a thermonuclear fusion research program.

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[English]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—INTENTION RESPECTING PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Can he advise the House whether the cabinet has reached a decision on increasing the allocation of funds for the LIP program?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, that decision has not been taken yet.

Mr. Marshall: In view of the lateness of the season and the widespread disappointment in respect of many thousands of applications, is the minister able to indicate whether there is hope for these applicants and will he make an official announcement, hopefully, before Christmas?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, until such a decision has been made I do not think there should be any inference drawn as to when this will happen. When such a decision is made it will be announced.

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN BENEFITS PAID PRERETIRED MINERS IN LIGHT OF COST OF LIVING

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Is the minister presently giving active consideration to an across the board raise in benefits paid to

Oral Questions

preretired Devco miners and their dependants to compensate them for the greatly increased cost of living with which they are faced?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member will know, there was such an across the board increase a few months ago. I am speaking from memory, but if it is not now linked to the cost of living escalation I believe that is the intention. Therefore there would be something of this nature for the workers concerned. I will be glad to look into the matter and get an answer as to exactly how the program works.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES

STEPS TO INCREASE SUPPLY OF QUARTERS AND DIMES

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Supply and Services. In view of the continuing decline in the supply of quarters and dimes by the Royal Canadian Mint, in view of the problem of retailers in having enough change available, and as conditions will worsen between now and Christmas, what steps is the minister taking to increase the supply of silver coins in order that this problem can be overcome?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, we are now minting coins at full capacity, and this is even causing problems with our personnel. However, we are negotiating with our personnel representatives in order to minimize the coin shortage.

[English]

Mr. Hales: Would the minister take into consideration a cutback in production for export in this connection?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, in fact we do not wish to destroy the markets that we have developed outside Canada, but we have certainly reduced our activities in these markets to meet the demand within the country.

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[English]

ENERGY

DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS OF SUPPLIES ALLOCATION BOARD

Mr. Tom Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Is he able to say now when the energy conservation board which he announced on television will be getting under way?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I believe notice of this procedure was given and it is probably on the order paper now.