

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Does the minister know what percentage of these 14 to 24 year olds require retraining to have a reasonable expectation of being incorporated into the work force?

Mr. Lang: It is difficult to say who requires retraining. The usual question is whether they can take advantage of or benefit from retraining in order to have greater variety or a better type of position offered to them. This is the object of the retraining programs, and of course this is why it is essentially offered to those who have been in the labour force and not simply to those who are at school or who have regular or other schooling available to them.

Mr. Lewis: Perhaps I may address this supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that many of these young unemployed people are obviously not entitled to unemployment insurance benefits and are not entitled to allowances if they try to get some training under a program and therefore have to depend on welfare, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government would consider immediately either changing the requirement of three years before being able to obtain an allowance during training or discussing with the provincial ministers of welfare some kind of expansion of eligibility for social welfare to which the Canada Assistance Plan would apply?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I cannot say that those particular remedies would be the ones that we would consider but the problem is being considered and when we do make any policy changes we will announce them. They may include the suggestions of the hon. member, but they may not.

Mr. Speaker: There is obviously a number of further supplementary questions. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe and then go on to the hon. member for Shefford who has been waiting patiently for an opportunity to ask the first question on behalf of his party.

INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE—
SPECIAL MILITIA TRAINING PROGRAMS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Would he now consider more seriously the proposals I placed before the Minister of National Defence to introduce special militia training programs for youth?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister of National Defence heard the hon. member's representations.

[Translation]

TRADE

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON MARKET WITH
UNITED STATES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for noticing how patient I have been.

[Mr. Lang.]

Since the Prime Minister is supposed to have said in St. John, New Brunswick, on December 8, that the United States will be a net importer of commodities within 10 years, does he not believe that it would be beneficial for Canada to establish a common market with that country?

Mr. Lewis: I hope not.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that this consequence can be implied from those premises. The problem of the establishment of a common or continental market has already been discussed in the House. Hon. members know that the government has concluded in certain fields, in the automobile sector for instance, agreements quite profitable for all parties concerned. If other similar cases occurred, we would gladly consider them, but I do not think that it would be advisable at this stage to speak about a complete common market between the two countries. It would not be beneficial for Canada.

It is perhaps a matter that could be considered in the distant future.

[English]

DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. MARKETS FOR ATLANTIC
PROVINCES' PRODUCTS

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Is he in a position to outline any special action that will be undertaken by the government to assist in the development of new markets for Atlantic provinces' industries in the United States, as a result of the speech he made in Saint John this week?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Of course, Mr. Speaker, the services of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce are always available to explore new markets and to help Canadian industry take greater advantage of them. No one is more aware of the situation than the present Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister or the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce consider setting up a special seminar-type conference between industry, businessmen and political leaders in the Atlantic provinces to see if there might be some special type of assistance the department could give to the development of new markets in the area that the Prime Minister pointed out might be advantageous to industry in the Atlantic provinces?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, this is a subject which is being looked at at the moment, but I might underline the fact that the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce has just opened an office in Fredericton, New Brunswick. I might also say that the Premier of Prince Edward Island was here last week with his Minister of Labour,