

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it will be up to you and the House to decide whether there was indeed any slander, but I must indicate to the gentleman opposite that my reference did not in any way indicate that he or his colleagues from Alberta are bigots. What I did indicate was that in their value judgments it is more important to Quebec to have acceptance by Canada of the bilingual policy than to have a gallon of oil from Alberta. I would hope the hon. member would support that along with all his colleagues.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. John's West.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for St. John's West. Before the Chair recognized the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona on a question of privilege, the hon. member for Compton had the floor.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS—FORMULA FOR ALLOCATION OF GRANTS

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Would he advise the House whether local initiatives projects will be maintained and, if so, whether additional funds will be made available? Otherwise, will the LIP policy be abolished?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Local Initiatives Program is, of course, current now. Money is being allocated and projects approved. If I have missed the point of the hon. member's question, I apologize. Most certainly it is alive, well and living in Canada and it is being vigorously pursued at the present time.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Compton wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, have the hon. minister and the government reviewed the LIP formula which they have established over the past few years? Does it meet real needs? Is it warranted? If so, why are as many as 90 per cent of the projects turned down?

[English]

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Things are becoming somewhat confused.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker—

[Mr. Roche.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I was going to suggest to the hon. member for Compton that the question might be placed on the order paper in both French and English in view of the difficulty with the translation service.

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FISHERIES

ASSISTANCE TO NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN TO COMPENSATE FOR LOSSES DUE TO SEVERE ICE CONDITIONS—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROGRAM

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries. It concerns the statement made by him on November 9 in which he announced a program of assistance for Newfoundland fishermen who suffered losses because of ice conditions last spring. In view of the fact this program discriminates against many hundreds of Newfoundland fishermen in that those who do not live within the defined areas will not receive assistance although they suffered the same type of losses under the same conditions, would the minister give an undertaking to have this program extended so that all fishermen who have suffered losses because of the ice conditions in Newfoundland will be compensated?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to give the hon. member that assurance. However, I can also tell him that, prior to the announcement of areas in which the benefits will be paid an analysis was made of the catch of the fishermen. The hon. member will be glad to know that in Newfoundland as a whole the value of the catch was up by 20 per cent.

Mr. Carter: I am aware of the formula used by the minister and his officials in arriving at this decision, but in view of the fact the formula discriminates against inshore fishermen, will the minister reconsider and extend the program to these people?

Mr. Davis: Our financial support is aimed primarily at inshore fishermen.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

STUDY OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUMBER OF JOB VACANCIES AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECEIVING BENEFITS

Mr. Ian Arrol (York East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether he is studying the relationship between the high job vacancy rate and the increasingly high unemployment insurance benefits and, if so, when might we expect the results of such investigation?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this problem is under constant examination. I have announced before the miscellaneous estimates committee the several steps which we are taking. I might say that the unemployment insurance claim board is diminishing in relation to the diminishing