

the movement should continue but the number should be cut back. The feeling, however, of the host associations was that this decision had been made too late and they had already made many arrangements for students. On that basis, we have decided to go back to the same quotas as we had last year.

The hon. member's figures were 320 for Alberta, 100 for Saskatchewan 100 for Manitoba and 50 for British Columbia. This program is supposed to have a certain degree of reciprocity, which we have not had in the past but which we hope to encourage next year. We will be endeavouring this year to set some quotas for next year so that we cannot be challenged for making decisions too late. But given the level of high unemployment, particularly among youth, it seemed to us that we should have a slight cutback in the number. We are going to put them back to last year's quotas, however, given the representations of the hon. member and my two colleagues.

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INDUSTRY

FOREIGN TAKEOVERS AND INVESTMENT—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who is out west being booted, I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. Since the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce assumed his portfolio, the record of the Foreign Investment Review Board has been that 97 per cent of all applications for new investment or for takeovers in Canada by foreign concerns have been approved. The record before that was a 90 per cent approval rate.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister tell the House why a proposal by Golden Eagle Canada Limited, of Montreal, a subsidiary of Ultramar, who have operated for many years in Canada, was refused, that is, for permission to acquire control of Metro Fuel Company Limited and other Metro companies of Moncton, New Brunswick, which are businesses engaged in the wholesale and retail distribution of gasoline, heating oils and diesel fuel? Why did that proposal, out of the many hundreds approved in recent months, fail to get the approval of the cabinet?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that in each case there is determination as to whether the action would contribute significantly to the benefit of Canada. In this particular case, it obviously did not meet the test. However, I do not have the details. I will undertake to get these details for the hon. member.

Mr. Crosbie: When the Foreign Investment Review agency approved this as meeting the test, and the minister brought it to cabinet approving it as meeting the test of significant benefit to Canada, why was it rejected by the cabinet? Was there political interference in the process? Were there representations from certain powerful groups in New Bruns-

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wick which had something to do with this? It met the test, according to the board and the minister, but the cabinet turned it down. Why was that?

Mr. MacEachen: As I said, Mr. Speaker, I do not have the details of this particular case. I will undertake to get them for the hon. member.

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POST OFFICE

POSTAL CARRIERS—CONSIDERATION BY GOVERNMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Can he indicate whether he or his department have any plans to lift the freeze presently on the postal carriers' situation, so that all Canadians in these growing areas can be treated equally?

[Translation]

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, that policy of budgetary and employment restrictions in the Post Office was adopted about two years ago. To my mind, we should try first of all to have peace among the Post Office employees to find out how best that department could function. Then, I would certainly be in favour of looking at all the sectors in which Canadians are complaining they are not getting the services given elsewhere. But for the time being, it is a matter of budgetary restrictions and the policy of the government is to avoid spending too much.

[English]

Mr. Elzinga: Can the Postmaster General tell the House whether he or his department are studying alternatives to the regular mail carrier service, and whether they plan to bring forward any alternatives in the near future?

[Translation]

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, for the time being, I believe there is no way of delivering mail other than by mailmen, through blocks of mail boxes installed at certain points in certain areas, or again by general delivery in rural areas. I would much prefer being able to announce to all Canadians that within coming months door to door delivery will be extended but, as I have just said, because of budgetary restrictions, we cannot change the situation.

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[English]

FINANCE

INCENTIVES FOR INSTALLATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS IN HOMES

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Is the minister considering the advisability of including incentives for renew-