

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

**Mr. Bécharde:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe the minister was rising to answer my question and I would like to hear what he has to say.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that if repairs are needed they should be made at the airports referred to, without necessarily using the funds earmarked for other purposes.

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[English]

## SOCIAL SECURITY

## DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME PROGRAM

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I now direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the government at the instigation of the Minister of Finance decided to cut back or slow down the social security program which the Minister of National Health and Welfare announced in this House on April 18, 1973? Can he specifically now tell us what the target date is for the introduction of a guaranteed annual income?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I will have the opportunity to meet my provincial counterparts tomorrow and the day after at a federal-provincial conference of welfare ministers. As for the matter of income security, I think that when my hon. friend reads the proposal the government intends to make to the provinces on this occasion, he will find that these proposals are well within the limits indicated in the working paper tabled in this House in April 1973.

[English]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, will the minister make a statement on this matter to the House immediately following that conference?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde:** I will certainly make sure that any statements I make at the conference will be available immediately to all members of this House. As to whether it will be necessary to make a formal statement to the House at the end of the conference, I would like to give consideration to it later on.

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## MANPOWER

## LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDS

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and I would also ask the President of the Treasury Board to give it very special attention.

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

Owing to the considerable increase in unemployment in areas where textile and lumber industries are set up, as in the Bellechasse constituency where the people are quite concerned, may I ask the minister whether additional estimates will be earmarked for the Local Initiatives Program, so that priority projects will be subsidized thus creating jobs to compensate for dismissals in those industries and will he suggest that the date for the beginning of works be deferred from January 31, 1975 to March 31, 1975?

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will give consideration to and discuss the hon. member's representations with my colleagues.

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## FINANCE

## AMOUNT OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PAYMENTS ESTIMATED FOR 1975

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday last I asked the Minister of Finance this question, and in his absence today I will repeat it for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

In view of the obvious revision of the financial resources available to the government and to the economy, would the minister advise the House as to the revised figure he has arrived at respecting the cash requirements of the government for unemployment insurance payments in the fiscal year 1975, in light of the government's obligations? Will this figure possibly exceed the \$2 billion reached in 1972?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I think, as the Minister of Finance indicated, there are a great number of variables which go into such forecasts.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** He said he would look into it.

**Mr. Andras:** Yes, I am sure he will, and we are constantly looking at the variables to see the range. I would say that it is quite possible that the benefit pay-out in 1975 would be larger than the benefit pay-out in 1974, but to what extent I cannot tell you yet.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** In view of the fact that the estimates are going to be tabled on Wednesday next, surely the minister already knows whether the figure of cash requirements for the government with regard to its responsibilities under the unemployment insurance scheme will exceed \$2 billion.

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, of course the Minister of Finance has been a party to these calculations. When the estimates are tabled I am sure the hon. member will be able to explore with us what the consequences and results might be.