

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact it is virtually impossible for residents in many of Canada's mining communities to receive loans from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, would the minister elaborate on his statement that loans will now be available to new resource areas?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, because it gives me the opportunity to deny completely the premise upon which the question is based. The residents of new resource areas in Canada, according to my information, have had no serious difficulty in getting the necessary loans either for home construction or even for some rental housing.

Mr. Langlois (Mégantic): Make inquiries in *Thetford Mines* to see if that statement is true.

Mr. Simpson: Would the minister take the time to look into the situation at *Thompson, Manitoba*, where the *International Nickel Company* has had to guarantee all loans?

Mr. Nicholson: That fact does not alter the statement that I have made that in the mining or resource towns there has been no difficulty in getting loans from C.M.H.C. I have been assured that responsible mining companies give the necessary guarantees that are called for by the regulations.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ADULT TRAINING PROGRAM TO INDIANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Last week he announced a pilot training project for adult training in areas of slow economic growth in Canada. Inasmuch as almost 50 per cent of the adult male Indian population in Canada is unemployed, will the minister consider, in co-operation with the department of Indian affairs, establishing a division in each provincial project which will deal specifically with training and employment opportunities for adult Indians?

Mr. Speaker: I hesitate to suggest to the hon. member that the question appears to be of a very general nature. Unless there is some urgency which I fail to see, I do not think the question should be allowed.

[Mr. Simpson.]

Mr. Watson (Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie): I submit there is some urgency in that last week the program for these pilot projects was announced. I think it is important that as these projects are brought into being there be an Indian division in each of them from the start. Surely 50 per cent unemployment represents an urgent matter.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am ready to study this suggestion.

[Later:]

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration concerning the manpower services of his department. Can the minister tell the house what steps he has taken or intends to take to ensure that in the staffing of offices throughout the country wherever there is a significant Indian population, there will be officers particularly qualified to help Indians requiring employment? Has he in mind recruiting staff from amongst the Indian people themselves for this purpose?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we have worked hard in the department to upgrade our own personnel. I cannot answer for this particular aspect of the subject. Perhaps I could take the question as notice and inform the hon. member later of what is happening.

WOMEN

REQUEST FOR ROYAL COMMISSION ON STATUS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. During the presentation of their brief this morning did the National Council of Women ask for the establishment of a royal commission into the status of women in Canada?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, they did not bring that up. It was not the subject of one of their resolutions at the last meeting of the council. I did have the pleasure of telling them at the end of the meeting on Friday last that the government would be making a statement on this matter in a day or two.