

Inquiries of the Ministry

national average, will the minister say what plans he has for discussions with the provincial government of British Columbia to find some ways of providing employment in that province?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder if the question now asked by the hon. member for Kamloops is not closely related to the one asked by the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot. It seems to me that the hon. member for Kamloops and the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot are asking for statements which should normally be made on motions.

Mr. Fulton: There was a precedent established by a former opposition. However, may I rephrase my question. Does the minister have any plans for immediate discussions with British Columbia concerning joint efforts to provide employment there?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, my department is in constant touch with just about all the provinces to obtain jobs for the unemployed and to give retraining to those who need it. In short, the department services are in full operation and they work in co-operation with the provinces.

[English]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): May I ask a supplementary question. My question is equally applicable to the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Labour, and relates to the herring fishery on the west coast. Up to 1,000 people are going to be unemployed, in fact are unemployed, because of a decision of the federal Department of Fisheries. I should like to ask the minister whether he or the Minister of Fisheries or the Minister of Labour will take immediate steps to go to British Columbia to meet with the representatives of the unions, companies, civic and provincial officials to ascertain what alternative employment can be provided to these people?

Mr. Marchand: The answer is the same. We have manpower centres in British Columbia which are in touch with the provincial authorities, and it is the job of these manpower centres to find solutions to these problems.

WINTER WORKS

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF BRUSH CLEARING IN NORTHERN AREAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister

of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the importance that we must place on winter works in creating employment, will the minister give every consideration to continuing brush clearing within the winter works program in northern areas?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we have announced our program, and brush clearing is accepted in so far as it is related to a permanent project. There are meetings this week between the officials in my department and the provincial officials at which this program is being reviewed for next year.

TRANSPORT

FERGUS, ONT.—C.N.R. OBJECTIONS TO DECISION BY COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Huron): I have a question for the Minister of Transport regarding a recent decision by the transport commission after a proper hearing. Will the minister investigate the objections of the Canadian National to this decision in order that the rights and privileges of the town of Fergus in connection with one of their main thoroughfares will be protected?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question should be placed on the order paper.

FARM MACHINERY

INCREASE IN PRICES OF JOHN DEERE COMBINES AND TRACTORS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. S. Smallwood (Battle River-Camrose): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture, but because of its importance, I should like to transfer it to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister inform the house what action, if any, his government is taking in connection with the increase on November 2 of approximately 5 per cent in the price of tractors and combines by the John Deere Machinery company?

TRADE

INQUIRY AS TO SIGNING OF INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. D. McLelland (Rosetown-Biggar): I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and