

Inquiries of the Ministry

of the increasing market? Will the minister use his good offices to assist the berry growers to obtain the necessary help?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): I will certainly draw the hon. member's representations to the attention of the national employment service.

REPORTED CHANGES IN WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister's department in the process of making fundamental alterations in the municipal winter works incentive program? If so, what steps are being taken to consult the provincial governments in this regard?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the changes in the municipal winter works program were announced in the house on Monday. I have taken steps to see that all the provincial governments are advised about these changes in the oncoming winter works program.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I take it, then, that the provinces were not consulted prior to these alterations being made?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I think I can say that the officials of the Department of Labour are constantly in touch with various provincial officials who are interested in these particular programs. Views are exchanged, and I am sure that the views of officials who were contacted in this informal way were reflected in some of the changes that were made.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it correct that some of the officials of the provincial governments were asked their views only 24 hours beforehand, and that before they could communicate their views these changes were made, without consultation?

Mr. MacEachen: It may be, Mr. Speaker, that the consultations were so continuous that they were held very close to the time of the announcement.

PENITENTIARIES

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—STEPS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): I desire to ask a question of the Minister of Justice, and I am sorry I was not able to give him notice. I called his office several

times this morning, but I found he was in cabinet. Upon looking at my question, Mr. Speaker, I find it is about the longest single sentence I have ever written.

My question is, in view of the fantastic information which was contained in sessional paper 74A which the minister was good enough, and I may say honest enough, to file yesterday dealing with the cause of the riots at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, can the Minister of Justice advise this house whether steps have been taken or will be taken immediately in order to prevent any further recurrence of disturbances by ridding the institution of vermin, rats, bedbugs; by reducing the over-long hours of cell confinement; by making provision whereby hot meals are not cold by the time the inmates can consume them, and by dealing with all matters which are of concern to the officers and inmates in accordance with the sessional paper which was filed yesterday by the minister?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the length of the question asked by the hon. member indicates that an equally lengthy reply would be necessary, and it is the custom to deal with matters of this kind on the estimates. However, if the hon. member had read further, as I am sure he has, he would have seen that a number of steps have already been taken, not to deal with all the difficulties that have arisen or that were the cause of the riots, but certainly to deal with those which are of a more immediate nature.

DRUMHELLER, ALTA.—REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTION OF INSTITUTION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): I should like to deal with a question which was asked some days ago by the hon. member for Bow River in connection with penitentiary construction at Drumheller.

In 1961 the penitentiary service proposed to treasury board a scheme for the construction, between 1962 and 1966, of nine major federal penal institutions in Canada. It was proposed that one of these institutions should be located in the vicinity of Drumheller, Alberta. The penitentiary service contemplated that the necessary land would be acquired in 1962-63 and that construction would commence in 1963-64. The necessary land was acquired accordingly. However, in 1962, in connection with the preparation of estimates, treasury board directed that the program of building should be phased out over a five year period instead of a four