

needed for the railways to replace cars which are deteriorating and that the kind of equipment we need is the kind that was purchased previously by the Canadian Wheat Board on behalf of the government, which are now fulfilling a very important function in the prairie region.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—METHOD OF ALLOCATING FUNDS

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

If I understood correctly, the minister said a while ago that the sums allocated for the Opportunities for Youth program would be divided among 33 areas. Could the minister now tell us what basic criteria will be used to redistribute these in each constituency or is he letting each area decide arbitrarily to grant the amounts it wants to the constituencies it chooses so as to favour those constituencies which are represented by Liberal members, as is now being done?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will surely admit that a question asked in these terms is not acceptable. If the minister can reply to the first part of the question without reverting to motions, the Chair will allow him to do so. I remind hon. members that the end of the question period is approaching quickly and I hope that we shall be able to recognize rapidly some of the hon. members who wish to ask questions.

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have indicated to hon. members in the House, and I wrote to every hon. member on February 28 clearly setting forth the formula for the allocation of OFY funds to the 33 labour-management areas in Canada. There has not been in the past and there is not intended to be this year an allocation as such to each constituency because the statistical base of that procedure, applied to this program, does not seem to fit. So the selection of projects within the 33 management areas will be on the basis of merit and we will do our best to administer it in favour of hon. members.

ALLEGED SHORTENING OF OFFICE HOURS—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Since the public service has been allowed to stagger its hours of work, why is it that the Manpower office seems to be contracting its hours rather than expanding them?

● (1210)

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I know of no area or location in which Manpower offices are in fact contracting their hours. We have had some beneficial experiments in the

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city of Toronto where we have been opening later and staying open later to meet the experimental project requirements at the mall—at the market. We think it has been very good but, unless the hon. member can give me specific information, I do not think the premise of his question is correct.

Mr. Korchinski: I will be very glad to give the minister specific information. The Ottawa office is open only until 4.30 p.m. and I wonder why in the world Manpower offices cannot stay open longer hours.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I was hoping the hon. member would not try to convey to the minister the information he was seeking but would ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Korchinski: The minister asked for it.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

TELEVISION SETS—HAZARDS CREATED BY DEFECTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that in the United States in the last 18 months 1,039 injuries and 14 deaths have been attributed to defective television sets, which has prompted the imposition of mandatory safety standards for television sets and resulted in the recall of more than 40,000 colour sets for the correction of shock and fire hazards, would the minister inform the House whether similar problems exist in Canada and, if so, what steps have been taken by his department to protect Canadians from similar tragedies?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this has been under investigation in the hazardous products branch of my department. My recollection is that the design of sets in Canada has not caused the same number of problems, but the branch is prepared to act under the Hazardous Products Act if the situation requires it.

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ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

SUGGESTED ELIMINATION OF TOLLS AND DOCKAGE CHARGES

Mr. Trevor Morgan (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Having regard to the fact that shipping companies pay about \$25 million in tolls and dockage fees, and that this amount, if released to the shipping companies, would enable them to make a fair settlement with the SIU now on strike, and having regard to the fact that if this strike continues wheat shipments will be greatly reduced, will the minister take under active consideration now the lifting of all tolls and dockage charges on the St. Lawrence Seaway system?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member does not know it but