

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DEFINITION OF "CIVIL SERVANT"—ACCEPTANCE BY PROVINCES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour with respect to a statement he made the other day on civil servants and the definition of employees. Could the minister advise if the province of Quebec has accepted that definition, and whether he has had any reply from any of the other provinces? In fact can he somewhat assure us that the other provinces feel that the act as it stands now, with its new definition, is acceptable?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the employees, the civil servants of British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have all been included under the new act, and the fact that they have applied to come under the act indicates that they consider it a very good act.

So far as the provinces of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are concerned they have accepted the plan, and negotiations are taking place on some technical matters. So far as the province of Quebec is concerned, whether it intends to remain outside the plan as of January 1 next is a matter to be determined by that province.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF—POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF PERIOD IN OFFICE

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to that great friend of the milk ranchers of Canada, the Minister of National Defence. Could the minister indicate whether or not consideration is being given now to the extension, by a year or more, of the period in office of the Chief of the Defence staff?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that would be a Governor in Council decision, and it would have to be announced in due course.

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STATISTICS CANADA

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ENGLISH-SPEAKING EMPLOYEES—PROMOTIONS IN IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE SECTIONS

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce as the minister responsible for the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The question is apropos of the Prime Minister's recent remarks on a harmonious bilingual and bicultural capital. The question deals with complaints I receive daily about discrimination against English-speaking public servants,

Inquiries of the Ministry

particularly in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Would the minister undertake a study of the situation there and report on his findings to the House?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I will do so, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Alkenbrack: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, would the minister attempt to find out how it is that the names of persons to be promoted are known to the staffs of the import and export trade sections in the DBS even before promotion boards are held?

Mr. Pepin: I said I would inquire, Mr. Speaker.

ALLEGED DETERIORATION OF MORALE OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a supplementary question. I, too, have been getting reports of abuses of the provisions of the Official Languages Act in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and of the general deterioration of morals in that department—

Some hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Scott: —of morale in that department. I would like to ask the minister whether he would undertake a further study of the matter before it gets any worse? Further, would the minister report to the House after his study has been completed?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I said I would inquire about the situation with regard to appointments, not of morals.

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INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—CORRECTION OF STATEMENT ON POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF PONTIAC PRODUCTION FROM STE. THERÈSE TO UNITED STATES

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): If you will allow me to make a correction, Mr. Speaker, I wish to refer back to the answer I gave to the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby. I did not intend to confirm the rumour he was talking about. I only wanted to say that G.M. will be announcing its intentions, according to my understanding, some time in January.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

WAR MEASURES ACT—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES PRIOR TO PROCLAMATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a further question about the War Measures Act. I would like to ask him whether there were any discussions with representatives of the provincial governments and the municipal governments, with regard to the invocation of the War