

made regarding the city of Saint-Hyacinthe and the surrounding area?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I met with a large delegation from Saint-Hyacinthe this morning and we studied the problem of this city which is facing considerable difficulties.

[English]

FURTHER INITIATIVES TO SUPPLEMENT  
DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government intends to announce any new initiatives at the federal level in order to supplement the activities of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and whether he plans to make a statement on motions outlining such initiatives?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** As far as the activities of the department are concerned, the minister informs me that the agreement has not yet been signed, and it will have to be signed before the activities bear their fruit. On the general question of unemployment, I do not see that it would be very useful to make a statement on this subject during the next few weeks. I have already explained several times that unemployment would be substantially more serious in Canada if Canada were not waging such a fight against employment—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:**—against inflation. But I have ceased to try to convince the opposition of this.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the right hon. gentleman consider relaxing government restrictions that have been placed on the spending of the Department of Public Works in view of the fact that not only is unemployment increasing but there is an increasing lack of activity in an area where a relaxation of restrictions is vital for the east coast fishing industry?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It seems to me that the question asked by the hon. member was asked last week in precisely the same terms on Thursday or Friday, I believe.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND NEW BRUNSWICK—  
SIGNING OF SPECIAL AREA AGREEMENTS  
WITH PROVINCES

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** A supplementary question to the Minister of

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Regional Economic Expansion. Now that Treasury Board has approved the two special areas programs for Newfoundland and New Brunswick—presumably the ones just referred to by the Prime Minister—would the minister tell the House when the agreements will be signed with the two provinces concerned which are obviously very anxious to get the programs under way?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, there should now be no further delay. It has all been approved, but there must at least be time to draft the final agreements and forward them to the provincial authorities for signature.

[English]

MANITOBA CENTENNIAL

REQUEST THAT JULY 15 BE HOLIDAY FOR  
WORKERS COMING UNDER FEDERAL  
JURISDICTION

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. May I welcome him back, and I am sure that my question is one that he will welcome. In view of the fact that the government of Manitoba is making arrangements for July 15, which is the 100th anniversary of Manitoba's entry into confederation, to be a holiday with pay for all workers who come under provincial labour jurisdiction, will the federal government consider the provincial government's request that similar arrangements be made for workers in Manitoba who come under federal labour jurisdiction?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the suggestion is a very progressive one and certainly a very fitting way to celebrate Manitoba's entry into confederation. Moreover, I hope private industry will listen as carefully as I was.

**Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping that the question would apply to all civil servants, not only those in Manitoba. As 1970 is Manitoba's centennial year, this is the type of celebration that we would request the minister to consider.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!