

Inquiries of the Ministry

• (1440)

MANPOWER**LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—APPLICATION DATE CONSIDERED IN MAKING GRANTS—ADDITIONAL FUNDS**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In view of the number of applications that have gone to his office in connection with the local initiatives program, is the original date of application considered for the granting of loans or is it the final date which is considered as the date of application in the granting of loans? I ask this question since there apparently is a shortage of funds available for the program.

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I will try to clarify the two dates that the hon. member has in mind and have a conversation with him on this.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if the government intends to devote additional funds to this program in order to make it workable inasmuch as people have become excited about the program and made applications and the program now cannot fulfil the requirements?

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Speaker, it is true that a very large response was made to this offer of opportunities for work. There is no present intention to increase the funds in the program.

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—SUGGESTED ONGOING PROGRAM TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN ISOLATED COMMUNITIES

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. Since many hundreds of applications under the local initiatives program from people living in remote and isolated communities will be turned down and as this will have a detrimental effect on their initiative and morale, will the government give consideration to introducing a similar type of program that will be ongoing so these people will be given the advantage of this type of project?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to note, in looking at the range of projects, that a great number of them, particularly in Newfoundland, involved what the hon. member likes to describe as isolated communities.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. I apologize to the hon. member. Perhaps I might first recognize the hon. member for Oxford on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUIREMENT THAT APPLICANTS BE CANADIANS OR LANDED IMMIGRANTS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. Can

[Mr. Sharp.]

the minister tell us if one of the criteria followed in making grants under the LIP program is that the applicant or those receiving assistance must be Canadians or landed immigrants?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I believe that both those conditions are in the criteria. I will check on that, but I think I am correct.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I recognize the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, my point of order concerns the question raised by the hon. member for Oxford, the response of the minister, and several projects which have been awarded grants in Toronto. I have reason to believe that certain individuals who were given grants did not meet the specific requirements. I wonder whether an investigation could be launched along those lines?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is obviously not a point of order.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member in a moment on a supplementary question. He will be recognized for that purpose in a moment.

[Later:]

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN TORONTO PROJECTS

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask whether the Minister of Labour will investigate those projects in Toronto which are of a questionable nature and report to the House on whether the criteria regarding Canadian citizenship or landed immigrant status have been met in connection with the two or three projects referred to by the hon. member for Oxford?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. gentleman to be more specific in his suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is the kind of situation in which it might be best if the hon. member were in touch directly with the minister, or the minister with the hon. member, in order to find out exactly what the situation is that they want to investigate.