

changed so that the IJC would not be bound by the 1942 and 1967 agreements?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. Harding: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary refers to my original question in respect of the Skagit Valley. Does the government plan on any further discussions of the Skagit with the United States authorities?

REQUEST BY INDIA THAT CANADA APPROACH PAKISTAN
RESPECTING POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND RELIEF
FOR REFUGEES

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, may I take advantage of being on my feet on a question of privilege—to clarify an answer given by the Prime Minister on Friday. On Friday the hon. member for Greenwood asked the Prime Minister whether he had received a communication from Prime Minister Gandhi of India requesting him to approach personally the government of Pakistan with a view to promoting a political settlement and, if possible, mounting a massive and co-ordinated relief operation in East Pakistan as well as in West Bengal, to which the Prime Minister replied:

I have received no recent communication on this subject, Mr. Speaker.

I wish to clarify this answer. The Prime Minister has received a letter from Mrs. Gandhi but not on this particular subject. I wish to make this clear so that it would not be thought that the letter has not been received, so that Mrs. Gandhi would not think the letter has not been received and so that no one would think that the Prime Minister was trying to mislead the House.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL STABILIZATION FUND

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Appearing before the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance, a visionary economist from the University of Montreal, Mr. André Raynauld, suggested the creation of a regional stabilization fund.

Has the minister asked his officials to study this proposal seriously?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the particular proposal mentioned by Mr. Raynauld but a proposal was made by the Prime Minister of Quebec last year and was studied by the government. We did, as you know, in the December budget set up \$160 million which was loaned to the various provinces based on the rate of unemployment in those provinces.

Inquiries of the Ministry

VETERANS AFFAIRS

REPEAL OF 1968 DEADLINE RESPECTING HOUSING

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact that many war veterans are still in serious need of housing and since the present housing programs under CHMC are not reaching them, is the minister prepared to consider the repeal of the October, 1968 deadline for war veterans so they might be given the opportunity to apply where the need is great?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this deadline was made law in 1962. In view of the fact that it was meant to assist veterans upon returning after the war and since more than 27 years have elapsed since that time, it is not felt that this would help the situation.

Mr. Marshall: Because of the fact that there are more younger veterans coming out of the army now, would the minister direct that the district offices across the country determine by survey how many veterans there are who would like to apply for such housing so that they might be helped?

Mr. Dubé: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to give consideration to this proposition.

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MANPOWER

USE OF OFFICES BY CONTRACTORS IN HIRING EMPLOYEES

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Does the minister's department require that contractors on federal projects go through the manpower offices when hiring employees?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the department does not have the power to do exactly what the hon. member suggests, but it is common, in respect of certain contracts entered into by the government, to include in them a clause as a term of the contract requiring contractors, wherever it is convenient or feasible—I do not know the exact words—to use the manpower services.

Mr. Lundrigan: In view of the fact that contractors are ignoring this stipulation—and the minister has evidence in his office of this fact—what steps is he taking to ensure that the regulations are enforced so that the manpower offices can perform this useful function?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the particular case to which the hon. member refers but when the contractual term exists the government takes an interest in seeing that it is honoured and takes whatever measures are appropriate in the particular case. In this instance I would have to look at the particular case before making any further comment.