

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

order to find a solution which would provide jobs for employees laid off last week in Bathurst, or has the province of New Brunswick made a suggestion for new programs to create jobs for these workers?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I received a long telegram from the New Brunswick premier who is to meet me tomorrow morning in that connection.

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[English]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****DIFFICULTY IN PROCESSING CLAIMS AT MONCTON  
COMPUTER CENTRE**

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** My question is for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the House the degree of the difficulties that have developed at the computer centre in Moncton with regard to the processing of unemployment insurance claims and the extent of the difficulties this is causing for claimants?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have serious doubts whether it is in order during the question period to refer to individual difficulties in relation to particular Unemployment Insurance Commission offices. Perhaps the hon. member might consider the possibility of having the question put on the order paper or of raising it at the time of adjournment. Possibly the minister might be prepared to reply quickly.

**Mr. Coates:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have allowed the minister to reply quickly so that we can get on with the question period.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the computer in the Atlantic area broke down on Monday, December 13 at 4:30. It was operating again the next day at 11:30. In the meantime, a midnight shift was established. By the end of December 15, everything was back to normal and up to date.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I see that several hon. members want to ask supplementaries and I suppose they will be related to similar problems in other parts of the country. For the present, in order to check on my assumption—

[English]

I will recognize the hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton.

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** A supplementary question. Will the Minister of Labour consider discarding the computers and going back to manual operation in the preparation of these payments?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This, of course, is a representation for the consideration of the minister.

[Mr. Breau.]

[Translation]

**DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC CONCERNING REGULATIONS**

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Labour.

Further to his statement of today in the House on unemployment insurance, could the hon. minister tell us whether he has had discussions since yesterday with the Quebec government and what is that government's attitude with regard to the new regulations the hon. minister has announced today?

[English]

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I felt that in courtesy to the House of Commons I should first make the particular section of the regulations known to hon. members. I would imagine that events would flow accordingly.

[Translation]

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister.

I would like to clarify my question and ask him if he has had, since yesterday, any consultations with Quebec in order to determine what position the government intends to take with regard to the decisions that his department is to announce soon.

[English]

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, I think I should make it very clear that the new act, as did the old act, provides for exception of public servants in each and every province in Canada. Some provinces, however, have taken advantage of another provision in the act, despite this exception, to request inclusion of all their public servants. The problem with the province of Quebec has been in defining precisely the public servants, and I could imagine—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether the minister would like to return to motions to make a statement. The hon. member for Assiniboia:

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**TRADE****EXHIBITION IN PEKING IN 1972—INCLUSION OF  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS EXHIBIT**

**Mr. William Knight (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the importance of the Canadian solo fair in China in 1972, has the minister considered an exhibit based on the agricultural products available to the People's Republic of China?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, it has already been announced that we will have a Canadian exhibition in Peking in the summer of 1972. Applications from Canadian producers are being received now. I do not know whether there is a selection being made by categories of industries but I will find out and report further.