

*Inquiries of the Ministry***UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the serious unemployment situation existing today, will the government give consideration to continuing the payment of unemployment insurance benefits to those whose unemployment insurance credits have expired and who, through no fault of their own, are unable to find work?

**Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, consideration was given to that question before the Easter recess, and it was decided not to take that step.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****INDO-CHINA—CONSIDERATION BY CANADA OF FIVE-POINT PEACE PLAN**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is the government giving any consideration to support by Canada of the five-point peace plan to settle the war in Indo-China, advanced by Prime Minister Nehru at New Delhi on Friday last?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** I understand that my hon. friend's question refers to the speech made in the House of the People by Prime Minister Nehru on Saturday, April 24.

**Mr. Coldwell:** It was in Friday's paper.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Then it must have been a preview because we have just received from the Canadian High Commissioner in New Delhi a summary of the statement on Indo-China made by the prime minister in the House of the People on Saturday, April 24. It is being studied very carefully by us here. We have also passed on this summary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson), who is now leading the Canadian delegation at the Geneva conference, as the proposals of Prime Minister Nehru will no doubt be given very careful consideration by those delegations which will be participating in the discussions on Indo-China at Geneva. In view of the fact that other countries are more directly concerned than Canada with this immensely complicated situation, I do not feel I should say any more at this time.

[Later:]

**Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether, in regard to the matter to which he just

made reference in reply to the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell), and other developments in the Indo-China theatre, reconsideration has been or will be given to the position of the Canadian delegation at the Geneva conference with a view to ensuring that we will take part as an interested and concerned party in the discussion on Indo-China?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Mr. Speaker, I would not like to commit the government to making any recommendation to parliament at this time to become directly involved in what is taking place in Indo-China. There have been statements made in this house that our obligations which might involve military action in the East were limited to what we were doing under the aegis of the United Nations. Now, there might arise a situation where it would be felt that we should go beyond that, but the government will have to give that very serious consideration. Before definitely committing Canada to action which might involve the participation of military forces, the government will, however, certainly bring its recommendation to parliament.

**Mr. Fulton:** I think the Prime Minister has misunderstood my question. My question was whether in view of these developments the Canadian delegation to the Geneva conference would be taking part in the discussion on Indo-China as an interested party; not whether the government of Canada was going to make any commitment with respect to the conflict there. The basis of my question was that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) in the external affairs debate some three weeks ago indicated we probably would not be taking part in that conference on Indo-China because we were not immediately concerned. My question relates to whether in view of the new developments we can any longer continue to take the position that we are not concerned in what goes on there.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** Canada has never taken the position that it was not concerned. It has taken the position that it was not directly participating in what was taking place in Indo-China and, as a consequence, that it had no standing to participate in decisions which might be made with respect to military action in Indo-China. We wish to fully discharge the spirit of the statements made to the house, that we are not going to involve Canada in matters that might require military action for their implementation without making a full disclosure to this house and a recommendation as a consequence of that disclosure.