

*Oral Questions***ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM****ALLEGED EXCESSIVE INCREASE IN EARNINGS OF PROFESSIONAL GROUP—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance may I direct a question to the acting Prime Minister or the acting Minister of Finance. The annual report of the Anti-Inflation Board which has just been released shows that the average net income of those in the professional groups has risen from \$35,700 to \$40,600, an increase of \$4,900 which is more than double the \$2400 prescribed by the Anti-Inflation Board. I should like to ask the acting Prime Minister if this does not indicate a glaring loophole in the anti-inflation program and also what steps the government proposes to take in order to plug this loophole.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question and I am sure the Minister of Finance will be happy to reply to the hon. member.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board has sought to explain this discrepancy by saying that undoubtedly some of the professional people worked harder during this year than during the base period, I should like to ask the acting Minister of Finance if it is the government's opinion that during the past year the engineers worked harder to the tune of \$7,700, that dentists worked harder to the tune of \$6,700, that lawyers worked harder to the tune of \$5,100 and that public accountants worked harder to the tune of \$4,200. If this is the basis upon which the government is allowing this very large increase in the incomes of professional groups would the minister undertake to provide the House with the data upon which they based their assumption and make that information available not only to the House but to the public.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to give an answer to the hon. member. Of course, it would be rather difficult to measure the output of every individual who works in the professions. The rule was applied to them. Of course if someone last year had greater output than in the previous year he should receive more compensation, just like any one else who worked overtime. Of course he could have earned more money than in the previous year. I do not know about the mechanics to measure that. I am sure the hon. member will appreciate that I cannot make any precise point about it. The only thing I am sure about is that Members of Parliament, while they worked harder last year, had no increase this year.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** What about next year?

[Mr. Speaker.]

**FAILURE OF SOME PROFESSIONAL FIRMS TO REPORT—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, there are some 40,000 professional firms which were ordered to report and there are only 23,134 which have reported which means that 16,866 have not reported. In other words 40 per cent of the total number of professionals who were supposed to report have failed to report as of September 17, 1976. I want to ask what action the government proposes to take to ensure that the professional groups, who already are getting more than the prescribed guidelines under the Anti-Inflation Board, are not allowed also to ignore completely these guidelines by not reporting at all.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that organized professionals must report to the board. I fail to see what means the board will take to compel them to do so, but I am sure the law will apply to them as it does to others.

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**MANPOWER****LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDS**

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** My question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Can the minister tell the House whether representations have been made with a view to increasing the moneys allotted LIP so that other good projects, the so-called buffer projects, can be accepted? Could the minister also tell us whether he has asked Treasury Board for additional moneys so that more new jobs can be created since unemployment will be higher this coming winter?

[English]

**Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, once again we have an initiative shown by the federal government which has turned out to be singularly successful.

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

**Mr. Cullen:** As to whether I have received representations on the amount of money being increased, I think the number of different constituencies involved is now up to 187. So, yes, I have been receiving representations.

[Translation]

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary.

Can the minister tell the House whether the study of the projects recommended to him will soon be completed and whether he will announce them so that the work on such projects as have been accepted can start in early November?