Oral Ouestions

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Once again the hon. member is totally wrong and incorrect. There is in the House now the acting minister of environment. He should therefore direct his question to the minister responsible, not to me.

[English]

Mr. Broadbent: Will the minister undertake in this serious matter, which should not be dismissed by quibbling debating points and which affects in a fundamental way literally the lives of Canadian workers, to make a statement tomorrow, in the House to tell us why, after more than two years, no action has been taken by the government of Canada?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, had the leader of the NDP had the common sense to ask his question of the right person, he would have learned that, following this letter, a joint committee has been set up by the Minister of Environment to consider every aspect of this issue. So far as I know, appropriate standards will be determined through consultation between the industry, the workers concerned and the government.

MANPOWER

CANADA WORKS PROGRAM—INQUIRY IF GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INCREASE FUNDS ALLOTTED

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Considering that, according to Statistics Canada, the unemployment rate for January and the beginning of February is the highest we have had since 1953, and considering also that the funds provided for the Canada Works Program, particularly for the first phase of it, are clearly inadequate, would the minister tell the House whether the government has been planning to increase the budget of this program?

[English]

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Not at the present time, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at the applications which have come in. It is a new and innovative program which has found great acceptance in the country and I want to look at all the applications to see what we should be doing in this area.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UGANDA—PROPOSAL THAT DEATH OF ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP
BE INVESTIGATED

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs; I have given his office notice of the question. The hon. member for Greenwood and the hon. member for St. John's East, and I think I could say all of us, are associated with the

posing of this question. Will the minister express to the Ugandan authorities the distress felt by members of parliament and other Canadians at the tragic deaths of the Anglican archbishop of Uganda and two cabinet ministers; and will the minister urge the Ugandan authorities to have an independent inquiry into these deaths under the aegis of the United Nations or the Commonwealth?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is quite right in saying that his question reflects the views of many members of this House who have spoken to me since my arrival here just half an hour or so ago. I think all of us are appalled by the incident, which I have to confirm to the House has been reported and is indeed factual, in which the Anglican archbishop and two others were killed in the manner reported. We will, of course, make the necessary representations which the hon. member has asked for, and I would hope sincerely that there will be a disposition on the part of the Ugandan authorities to accept the independent investigation to which the hon. member has referred, whether through the agency that he has mentioned or in some other way.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

REASON FOR INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES OF CROWN CORPORATIONS—MEASURES TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Since one of the more disturbing aspects of the estimates is that while Canadians who receive transfer payments are being cut back, and while the bureaucracy has slowed the growth of its wage bill to a still excessive 11 per cent, Crown corporations are having their share of the public purse increased by nearly one-third. In light of the restraint which has been imposed upon the Canadian public, would the President of the Treasury Board advise the House why such disproportionate increases are necessary for this particular sector, which is supposed to be increasingly able to stand on its own two feet?

Mr. Stanfield: It is obvious why they need it.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Without commenting on the intervention there, Mr. Speaker, one would have to go over the individual cases. I can give some general examples of further capital for operating budget, approval in regard to increased exports by EDC and things like that, but I think—

Mr. Stanfield: Agents' fees have gone up; they are now indexed.

Mr. Andras: Well, I suppose they are subject to inflation like everything else; we will try to do something about that. I would have to go into more detail than time would permit in the question period. You would have to look at each one individually and do a subtotal on it.

[Mr. Broadbent.]