

Inquiries of the Ministry

could he tell us why, every year, just like this year, the province of Quebec alone has 40 per cent of the total number of unemployed in Canada? What are the reasons for such a situation?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that the question is much too broad, much too wide. Therefore, the question as asked is not in order.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, for a number of years we have witnessed the same situation. My question is quite simple. Can the minister explain to the house the reason why Quebec always has 40 per cent of the total number of unemployed?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that his question cannot be asked at this time.

[*Later:*]

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration on unemployment in Quebec.

I would like to know whether the minister intends to meet with the provincial authorities to discuss the measures indicated in an effort to reduce the unemployment rate in Quebec?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if Quebec feels the need of our co-operation to combat seasonal unemployment, I shall be happy to meet the representatives of Quebec.

As far as my department is concerned, we are already taking measures to combat seasonal unemployment with, among other things, the winter works program undertaken jointly with the provinces and the municipalities. There are also other federal programs, but we have no objection to considering any other suggestion from the province of Quebec which is aware of such problems, if they indicate their interest in solving them.

Mr. Asselin (Charlevoix): I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Apart from the winter works program, would the minister have any idea of other steps which should be taken in Quebec to reduce the unemployment rate?

Mr. Speaker: I think that this question is much too comprehensive. The hon. member is asking the minister for a statement normally made on motions.

[*Mr. Caouette.*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

I would like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration when his department will be in a position to cope with all the applications made by the unemployed in Quebec for retraining courses as a result of technological changes?

Mr. Marchand: We are ready to cope with all the applications of the provinces which are prepared to provide courses, teachers and facilities.

[*English*]

VETERANS AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO INTERIM ADJUSTMENTS IN PENSION RATES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and ask whether he has yet received the report of the committee studying the question of veterans pension rates.

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received that report.

Mr. Patterson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would now consider the advisability of further interim increases and the inclusion of dependants in such increases.

Mr. Teillet: Mr. Speaker, that is the purpose of this study, and as I have already indicated I hope to have this report as soon as possible. If there is undue delay, then certainly the matter will be considered.

CAMP HILL, N.S.—REPORTED LACK OF HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. May I ask the hon. gentleman if he is in a position today to reply to the recurring questions I have been posing regarding the availability of bed space for veterans at Camp Hill hospital?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Yes, I have had an inquiry made into this matter. The report I received enables me to assure the hon. member that no veteran has ever been refused hospitalization