

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

MANPOWER

BILL UNDER STUDY BY U.S. CONGRESS—POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS ON RESIDENTS OF SOUTHEASTERN QUEBEC WORKING IN UNITED STATES

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since the American Congress is now considering Bill S-1488 which, if passed, will affect at least 8,500 southeastern Quebec workers, may I ask the minister whether he is aware of this bill and if officials from his department will be sent for an on-the-spot study on the impact of this bill on Canadian workers in southeastern Quebec?

• (1200)

[English]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I must be honest and say that I am not fully familiar with the bill which obviously originated in the other place, but I will look at it today and report back to the hon. member on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Huron.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question—

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for Huron. Perhaps we might return to him in a moment, but first the hon. member for Bellechasse has a supplementary.

[Translation]

The hon. member for Bellechasse on a supplementary.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

In view of the importance of the matter, may I ask the Minister of Labour, once he has made inquiries, to make a statement to the House so that interested parties may be told as soon as possible.

[English]

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I shall take up that matter with the Minister of Labour.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

SUGAR BEETS—REQUEST FOR EARLY MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. I understand that the Ontario Sugar Beet Marketing Board and representatives of farm organizations will be meeting with the Standing Committee on Agriculture next Tuesday. They did not

[Mr. Speaker.]

have a chance to see the minister the last time they were in Ottawa, so I wonder whether he would make himself available for that meeting to hear their representations or is he going to meet with them separately next week?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I should like to meet with them as soon as possible. I cannot be at the committee meeting on Tuesday, but certainly I would hope to find a mutually convenient opportunity very soon.

* * *

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR LIGHTING OF MEMORIAL IN POINT PLEASANT PARK, HALIFAX

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. As we approach the commemoration of the battle of the Atlantic this coming weekend, would the minister give some consideration to accepting responsibility, as a gift on the part of the Canadian people, for the lighting of the national memorial in Point Pleasant Park, Halifax?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we will give consideration to that proposal.

Mr. Bell: Get a few more ships, too, for the navy.

* * *

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—PERSONNEL MAKING DECISIONS ON EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS—REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION WITH THOSE INVOLVED

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration regarding his statement earlier today. Who will make the decisions as to which LIP projects will be extended, and can the minister assure the House that the local people involved will be consulted regarding the projects?

Mr. Stanfield: Let's not get into that.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the 5,000-odd programs that are already in existence, many of which will be phased out at the end of May, have been visited by representatives of the department and evaluated to the extent of 92 per cent. A committee, which is independent of the minister for obvious reasons, has evaluated the projects submitted from the very beginning and it is expected that this committee, based on its studies, will select the 1,200 particular projects. The concept is not the effect it will have on unemployment—that would be very simple as the criteria would be merely that the project should be labour-intensive—but rather the effect that the programs have on the quality of life in many parts of this country, particularly those projects, for instance, that render direct assistance to senior citizens—