

Canadian manpower centres in two instances I know of provided individuals to displace those strikers, I wonder if I might ask how the government justifies the position of not only denying workers UIC benefits but—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest the hon. member's supplementary question is merely an argument and is not in order.

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### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

#### POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF POLICY FOR PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING IN WESTERN CANADA AT WESTERN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

**Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the fact that the western economic conference will begin in approximately 10 days, and in view of the minister's repeated statements on his so-called multi-dimensional approach to changes in regional economic expansion thrust, will he advise whether changes in the thrust of the department will be announced before or during the western economic conference, and whether a new thrust or impetus in respect of western Canadian secondary processing and manufacturing industries will be discussed at that conference?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that we have had a team working with the four western provinces on the basis of the working papers which I submitted to the House two weeks ago. These negotiations and talks are going extremely well. I think it is fair to say that all provinces have accepted the underlying principles of the new approach, and that the western economic conference will be discussing specific items, and high on that list will be manufacturing and processing in western Canada, which I am convinced ought to be enhanced.

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### INDUSTRY

#### POSSIBLE SHORTAGE OF ALUMINUM AND ZINC—SUGGESTED IMPOSITION OF EXPORT CONTROLS

**Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I notice he is not here so I wonder if I might direct it, through you, to his parliamentary secretary. I did give the minister notice of this question, Mr. Speaker.

On June 27 the minister told the House that the government was keeping close watch on basic raw materials, the supply of which may become short. In light of alarm among aluminum purchasers about forecasts of a shortage of aluminum ingots as a result of heavy foreign demand in Japan and the United States, would the minister tell the House what action he has decided to take to ensure that domestic requirements are met and not neglected at this time?

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Herb Breau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and see that the hon. member gets an answer.

● (1140)

**Mr. Kempling:** I should like to direct a supplementary question to the minister's parliamentary secretary. In light of the report that United States interests are endeavouring to purchase 263 tons of zinc, would the minister tell the House whether the government is ready to apply export controls, if necessary, and is studying this reported U.S. endeavour?

**Mr. Breau:** I will see that that part of the question is answered also.

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### ELECTION EXPENSES

#### ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF ITT FOR FUNDS—POSSIBLE RESIGNATION OF MR. McINNIS

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister in the absence of the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that officials of ITT have complained that the executive assistant to the minister in charge of multiculturalism, Mr. Mel McInnis, made two attempts and veiled threats last fall to have the United States parent company overrule the decision of their Canadian subsidiary which refused to contribute funds to the Liberal federal campaign, and in view of Mr. McInnis's denial that he so harassed these officials, would the Acting Prime Minister tell the House if in fact an investigation has been carried out? If so, is he now satisfied that Mr. McInnis was telling the truth when he stated that no threats were made to ITT when he attempted to get funds from the Canadian subsidiary for Liberal party coffers?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the position is that ITT would make no contributions to any political party, including the Conservative party.

**Mr. Stevens:** In the absence of the Minister of State in charge of multiculturalism I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister a question again. Has Mr. Mel McInnis resigned, has he been asked to resign, has he tendered his resignation, or have there been discussions that he might resign as executive assistant?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Sharp:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I will make inquiries.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I should tell the hon. member that I have serious doubts about his question. It could easily be placed on the order paper. When an hon. member inquires whether a public servant has resigned, or will resign or contemplates resigning, it is normally a question which should be placed on the order paper. I