

Could the parliamentary secretary say right now whether the purpose of those projects is to replace the local initiatives program we have had for three or four years?

[English]

Mr. Rompkey: This is a long range concept as compared with the Local Initiatives Program and, hopefully, it will provide more permanent jobs for the hard core of unemployed people.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON ASKING PRIVATE SECTOR TO PRACTICE RESTRAINT IN VIEW OF INCREASED GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, while this question was alluded to—

Some hon. Members: Leader!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Grafftey: In the interval since this matter was alluded to in a question put to the Minister of Finance 48 hours ago, we on this side of the House have had a chance to study the blue book of estimates. These estimates, together with supplementary estimates and the current rate of inflation amount to an increase over the last fiscal year of more than 30 per cent. In these circumstances I would ask the Prime Minister how he, together with the Minister of Finance, proposes to continue the government lecture to the private sector to practice restraint.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I believe the figure given by the hon. member does not take into account the estimates and the supplementary estimates. He should compare similar things. If he does so, he will get a better statistical result.

Mr. Grafftey: I can assure the Prime Minister that we on this side have come up with these figures after detailed consultation with many people. The current inflation rate, together with the supplementary estimates proposed by the President of the Treasury Board, bring the increase over the last fiscal year close to 30 per cent and I ask the Prime Minister how he and the Minister of Finance propose to continue to tell the private sector to practice restraint in those circumstances.

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HEALTH

ALLEGED DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON CHILDREN OF FOOD COLOURING—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that reputable sources indicate that artificial colouring and flavoring in foods may be contributing to hyperactivity and learning disability in children, can the minister tell us whether any studies are being under-

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taken by his department into the use of these food chemicals and, in particular, into their effect on children?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I know that various studies are made on a continuous basis in the Health Protection Branch. As to whether there have been very recent studies on the matter, I shall inquire and report to the hon. member.

[English]

Mr. Yewchuk: Since there is no proof to date that these additives have any nutritional value whatsoever, can the minister inform us whether he would be prepared to remove them from the marketplace, taking into account their possible danger?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: I shall give the matter closer consideration, Mr. Speaker, and report to the hon. member.

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[English]

COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF FACILITIES SUPPLIED UNDER GOVERNMENT'S ACCELERATED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State but, in his absence, I will direct it to the Prime Minister. The government's accelerated communications program is a five year crash program which will cost between \$150 million and \$200 million. Can the Prime Minister advise us what facilities have been installed in the past year since the program was announced and tell us the location of these facilities? Can he supply us with a plan showing these locations and outlining the facilities which are to be established over the next few years?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member will agree, on reflection, that information of this type ought to be sought in another way.

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AIR TRANSPORT

POSSIBILITY REGIONAL CARRIERS GIVEN MORE SHORT-HAUL ROUTES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport. Since the chairman of Air Canada, Mr. Yves Pratt, has indicated that domestic short-haul flights may be subject to rate increases of between 5 and 15 per cent in the coming year, has the minister given any consideration to allowing regional carriers to operate more fully in the area of short-haul operations if they feel they can do a better job than is being done by Air Canada at the present time?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): The question is more complex than it might appear. Most of the regional carriers are anxious to abandon short-haul flights.