Oral Questions

[Translation]

MANPOWER

USE OF INFORMATION CANADA TO ADVISE ON EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration a question.

The federal government has just stated its intent to allocate a few million dollars for a program whose object is to allow greater manpower mobility in Canada, and I commend them for it. Could the minister tell the House whether he intends to make a better use of the personnel of Information Canada for providing more efficient information to Canadians in search of a job, to indicate to them the areas in the country where there is greater need for manpower and to provide them with all the relevant information?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would review the comments I made in the House last Friday when I specifically referred to the need for greater information and the method to provide that I think he would get the answer to the question.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary.

Last Friday, I listened with a great deal of attention and interest to the speech made by the minister and that is the reason for my question. I greatly deplore the fact that manpower centres do not adequately inform our labour force, especially in Quebec or in eastern Canada, that the present rate of unemployment is 16 per cent. Can the minister tell us whether the manpower centres staff will be better informed or prepared so as to ensure greater manpower mobility towards the western part of our country?

[English]

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, in a nutshell I think they are well informed now but I am always glad to have them better informed.

FINANCE

SUGGESTED RENEGOTIATION OF MEDICAL CARE AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to follow up on the question by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre to the Minister of Finance. In view of the proposals made by the Ontario treasurer yesterday and the unanimous opinion of all provincial governments that if the Minister of Finance's financial proposals are as presented in the budget that medical and health care services in this country will rapidly deteriorate, will not the minister fulfil his obligation and renegotiate a medical care package with the provinces in good faith, since it was the federal authority that

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

unilaterally imposed the cost parameters on the provinces in the first place?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I believe that we share a joint responsibility with the provinces to ensure that Canadians receive the best universal, all embracing medical and hospitalization services on the most efficient cost basis.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We were negotiating to that effect over the past five years at least, and we look forward to continuing those negotiations now that we have set a new beginning.

Mr. Grafftey: Since during the debate in the 1960's even those who agreed with the principle of medicare warned this government about imposing cost parameters unilaterally, does the minister not agree that it is the federal authority which should live up to its obligations and lead the negotiations with the provinces now before the medical and health services deteriorate?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): In our negotiations with the provinces we expressed the view to them that there were certain rigidities in the current federal legislation which may have impeded the movement toward less costly but still all embracing services, in the sense of moving from acute hospital care treatment to clinical and home treatment, as well as toward using paramedical services to a greater extent than is permitted under present legislation. We look forward to co-operating with the provinces in achieving this result.

INQUIRY WHETHER PROVINCES AGREED TO PROPOSED CHANGE IN SHARING OF MEDICARE COSTS

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. I wonder whether he can indicate to the House whether any of the provinces had agreed to his proposals concerning the health hospital act and medicare changes prior to the budget?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I have not received any direct communication from any of the provinces.

Mr. Stanfield: Don't worry, you will.

AGRICULTURE

EGGS—MINISTER'S POSITION ON SUPPLY—MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS—ALLEGATION IMPORT CONTROLS NOT JUSTIFIED—POSSIBILITY OF TRADE WAR WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture if he can state to the House whether he is satisfied that CEMA has its supply-management problems in order and if he can satisfy the House that the charge made by the chairman of the Food Prices Review Board to the effect that the import