

Insurance Commission. As I have said on several occasions, no one in the commission will be laid off with less than six months notice, which is double that normally given. I anticipate that, at a maximum, less than 50 people working for the Unemployment Insurance Commission, out of an original 800, will be given six months notice some time in February.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FRED—PLAN FOR WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development whether he is prepared to answer the question I posed on Friday, January 17? I could repeat it if he wishes. I asked the acting minister because the minister was not in the house, whether he had received from the Newfoundland government a report on the proposed development plan for western Newfoundland under the FRED program, amounting to \$305 million.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, I have received this report. It is my view, which I believe the provincial government shares, that it would not be wise to base development measures for the province on the study of this area alone. We all know that the economic problems of the province as a whole are very difficult. In co-operation with Newfoundland officials, my department is currently examining what steps would best lead to the most effective joint development measures for the province.

SPORTS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE—POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF OAKLAND FRANCHISE TO BUFFALO

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in relation to the reply he gave to a question asked last Monday concerning the possible transfer of the National Hockey League franchise from Oakland to Buffalo. I ask whether in that answer which in my opinion contained a veiled threat, the minister seriously wants Canadians to believe that in his opinion a transfer of this franchise to Buffalo would perhaps contravene the provisions of the Combines Investigation Act, whereas a transfer to Vancouver might not do so.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member is asking the minister to interpret a statute. I would not think that, asked in those terms, the question is acceptable.

Mr. Simpson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the minister has already left that impression by saying he hopes that by the time they make this decision—and this indicates his interest in the franchise going to Vancouver—it will not be necessary for him to take action under the Combines Investigation Act.

Mr. Speaker: The minister was not in order in interpreting the statute, and the hon. member is not in order in interpreting the minister's interpretation.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. My question is related to what I understand was an announcement by the minister a few days ago that there will be a federal-provincial conference on Indian Affairs. If there is to be such a conference, will there be facilities for representatives of the native Indian people, in addition to government representatives, to be in attendance and participate in it?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, it has not been decided yet to organize a federal-provincial conference on Indians problems. However, we have discussed this with the provincial Ministers of Welfare at last week's conference. When we reach a decision, we shall announce it, in order to determine the best method to get to know the views of the Indians.

FINANCE

QUEBEC BONDS IN EXCHANGE FOR CANADA SAVINGS BONDS

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Finance a question. In view of the fact that salesmen of Canada Savings Bonds are presently going around "La belle province" telling people that Quebec will go bankrupt and advising them to exchange Quebec Savings