

*Questions*

per cent of claims, according to a consultants survey, have some element of suspected fraud which should be investigated. It would be impossible to establish the total number of outright cases of fraud unless every claim was investigated.

In this circumstance, no gross or percentage figures for the actual, rather than the projected, number of cases of outright fraud were given.

3. The figures related to possible abuse and overpayment of benefits are estimated based on a pilot study made by a firm of management consultants on behalf of the Commission.

4. The Unemployment Insurance Commission does not prosecute every case where it has been found that a claimant has made a fraudulent claim. For this reason there has been and always will be a discrepancy between the number of cases of fraudulent claims prosecuted and the number of cases of fraudulent claims that might exist or are uncovered. Those uncovered and not prosecuted in the criminal courts are disposed of by administrative sanction permitted by the Unemployment Insurance Act. The estimates in the radio campaign were based on a projection assuming the investigations of all claims.

5. See reply to Question 4 above.

6. A defendant, if prosecuted for unemployment insurance fraud, has the same rights to defend his case as any person who is tried in the criminal courts established under the Criminal Code. If a conviction is entered by the Court, the defendant has a right of appeal to the next higher Court within thirty days from the date the conviction or order of the Court was made, or the sentence imposed, as provided in the Criminal Code of Canada.

A claimant purported to have made false statements but not prosecuted, may at any time within thirty days from the day on which the decision of an insurance officer is communicated to him, or within such further time as the Commission may in any particular case for special reasons allow, appeal to the board of referees in the manner prescribed by Regulations of the Commission. In addition, an appeal lies to the Umpire in the manner prescribed by Regulations of the Commission from any decision of a board of referees at the instance of an association of workers of which the claimant is a member, in any case; or at the instance of the claimant, without leave in any case in which the

[Mr. Forest.]

decision of the board of references is not unanimous, and with the leave of the chairman of the board of referees in any other case.

7. No.

8. Not applicable.

## QUEBEC—WATER POLLUTION EXPENDITURES

Question No. 1,257—**Mr. Beaudoin:**

1. What amount has been spent by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to fight pollution in waters in the Province of Quebec?

2. Does the federal constituency of Richmond benefit by these expenditures?

3. If so, where were such monies spent and how much was spent in each location in the federal constituency of Richmond?

4. What are the future plans of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources for the federal constituency of Richmond?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** 1. Water pollution abatement is primarily a provincial responsibility. The federal government is directly involved where pollution affects international waters, fisheries or wildlife; and it also undertakes essential research and coordination of efforts towards water pollution abatement. The Canada Centre for Inland Waters, established by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, will be a focal point for water pollution abatement research; and it represents a major federal government investment largely for this purpose. The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources also operates a water quality sampling station on the St. Lawrence River at Levis, Quebec, at a cost of about \$1,000 per year, including analytical work.

2. The federal constituency of Richmond would not appear to benefit directly from this expenditure.

3. Not applicable.

4. None.

## PHASING OUT OF ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Question No. 1,287—**Mr. Coates:**

1. Is it the intention of the federal government to phase out the operations of the Atlantic Development Board?

2. How many vacancies presently exist on this Board and if the government does not intend to phase out the operations, when will a new Chairman and other Board Members be appointed?

3. How many requests for assistance are presently before the Board on which final decisions by the Board have not as yet been reached?