

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, does this mean the minister now realizes that rising interest rates, rising costs of material and rising taxation are hindering the progress of our economy?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is argumentative.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**EXTENSION OF MANPOWER MOBILITY PROGRAM TO FARM LABOUR AND INDIANS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Earlier today the hon. gentleman made a statement about the revised manpower mobility program. Will that program also include provision for unemployment insurance for farm labour to become effective on April 1 of this year?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear that we shall have to postpone that part of the program until we can find good definitions and have better administrative rulings than we have at present. However, the intention is to cover farmers too, and I hope we can do it as soon as possible.

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, a number of us are wondering whether grants available under the mobility policy will also be available to the first citizens of Canada, our Indians.

Mr. Marchand: As far as the first citizens of Canada are concerned, if they fulfil the requirements of the legislation I do not see why they should not be entitled to the same advantages as others.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**REARRANGEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH BRANCH OF DEPARTMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. M. Brand (Saskatoon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Could the minister tell the house whether the mental health division of his department has been assigned a lower position in the departmental structure recently, as a result of which the chief of this division does not now report directly to the deputy minister?

[Mr. Sharp.]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question asked by the hon. member is not in order at this time.

LABOUR RELATIONS**RAILWAY DISPUTE—APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATION BOARD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask the Minister of Labour. I tried to give him notice but I was informed he would not be in the house today and so I should like to address it to the parliamentary secretary. No doubt he will bring it to the notice of the minister and perhaps use his well established negotiating procedures to get a proper answer.

I should like to know what progress the minister has made in drafting the appropriate regulations and in appointing the board or boards of arbitration to deal with the dispute between the railways and those unions which rejected the terms submitted by Mr. Goldenberg as mediator.

Mr. B. S. Mackasey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, because of the great respect I have for the hon. member I would have had a prepared answer ready for him had he brought the question to my attention as well. He can rest assured, however, that I will bring the matter to the notice of the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Lewis: I apologize to the hon. gentleman. I telephoned the minister's office rather late this morning and did not follow up the matter. Would the hon. gentleman find out and inform the house, or have the minister do so, whether it is intended to provide in the regulations which I understand are in preparation that the award of the arbitrators will be for a three year term or for some other specific term, or whether the arbitrators are to be left with discretion in this area?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**EFFECT OF STATEMENTS BY NATIONAL DEFENCE DEPARTMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it his intention to make a statement on government policy in the near future so that parliament and the country will be able to judge whether statements being issued through the Department of National Defence in recent