

operation in the province of Manitoba which provides for large-scale renovations and repairs of housing for senior citizens and people in the low income brackets and extending that to the country as a whole as a means of getting people back to work.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the second part of the hon. gentleman's question and I will make a point of inquiring further about that program to which he has referred.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

ABSENCE OF HELICOPTERS FROM TRENTON—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REPLACE

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence after our discussion last week about helicopters. Will the minister explain why this morning there is not a single helicopter left at the Canadian forces base Trenton?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think if the hon. member goes to or phones Trenton he will find there is a Hercules, a Buffalo aircraft and two Huey helicopters moved in to reinforce from Petawawa as I said would happen.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the lightning swift response probably in anticipation of my question. Now, can the minister tell us when he intends to move back the air-sea rescue helicopters which should be there?

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, these Huey helicopters have an air-sea rescue capability. The helicopter that was there is being refitted for night operation and that is the reason it was out. This was the purpose of this operation. The armed forces acquitted themselves admirably and the hon. member for Hastings is very much aware of this as well.

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MANPOWER

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN CAPE BRETON—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Because of the high rate of unemployment in Nova Scotia and particularly in Cape Breton Island, my question refers to a statement by Labour Minister Walter Fitzgerald of Nova Scotia who has stated that a massive training program involving 3,000 workers would be launched this fall to provide qualified construction workers for a major new steel complex in Cape Breton. On the assumption that the minister is aware of such a program because of Mr. Fitzgerald's assertion that discussions have taken place with the minister's officials,

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would he be good enough to advise if he himself has been involved in these discussions and would he also inform the House how soon such a program will commence?

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will have to look into that. From the sound of it the contact has been made at the official level.

● (1500)

Mr. Muir: Would the minister be good enough to advise us either in the House, by telephone, by mail or in person, that his program will start the day after tomorrow or as quickly as possible?

Mr. Cullen: Before I communicate with the hon. member I would like to find out what it is all about.

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AGRICULTURE

POSSIBILITY PURCHASES OF CHEMICAL SPRAYS AND FERTILIZERS FROM UNITED STATES PROHIBITED

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. It stems or is caused by rumours to the effect that measures will soon be taken by this government to prohibit Canadian producers from making direct purchases for their own use of chemical sprays and fertilizers from United States outlets. Canadian producers have to compete directly in the marketplace with their United States counterparts. Such a move would create further difficulties for Canadian producers, and savings of up to 25 per cent and 30 per cent would be lost. Can the minister indicate now what the government's intentions are with respect to this very important matter?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have received no official representation that I am aware of from any producers' organization about this but, as I said before, before any decision is made I will meet with official farm organizations to discuss it with them. It is a two way street. If farmers want to place embargoes and duties on products they are producing in this country and we want to build a chemical industry, we must also ensure it has some protection so it can exist.

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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

ELIGIBILITY OF MOTHERS AND WIDOWS OF NEWFOUNDLAND SERVICEMEN FOR MEMORIAL CROSS

Mr. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister advise what progress is being made toward making widows and mothers of Newfoundland and Labrador servicemen killed while serving with the Canadian