

me that certain information was passed on with respect to one of the inmates to one or some of the officials of the Quebec region, but it was with respect to a time frame other than the present time. I am pursuing that still further and I hope to have more information for the House as soon as possible. We dealt with that in the committee this morning as much as we could.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROGRAMS TO DEAL WITH UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNGER CANADIANS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, perhaps we can leave the super institution the Solicitor General was talking about and ask the Minister of Finance a question. I am sure everyone in the House is happy with the fact that the unemployment figures continue slightly on a down curve—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: —but in view of the fact it is still the case that younger Canadians from 14 to 24 years represent the largest single group of unemployed Canadians at this time and it is a very large number of unemployed, about 200,000 or more, may I ask the Minister of Finance or any other minister dealing with the matter whether there is any particular program to deal with the unemployment of young Canadians in the months ahead?

● (1430)

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, a good many of the direct employment measures of the government are oriented toward younger people, as the hon. gentleman knows, particularly LIP and OFY. I am watching these figures with great care.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNGER CANADIANS— REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF TERMINATION OF LOCAL INITIATIVES PROJECTS IN MAJOR CITIES

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, that leads to a rather obvious but important supplementary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact Local Initiatives Programs in major cities are being terminated at the end of this month on the basis that those cities have less than the average national unemployment rate, which ignores the fact that in those large cities there may be pockets of unemployment above the national average rate, and as many thousands of young Canadians will be thrown on the employment market and many worthwhile schemes will be abandoned, I would like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether he is ready to reconsider his program and to continue worthwhile projects—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lewis: —not those given to companies but those given to local communities organizations?

Oral Questions

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly give every consideration to the hon. member's representations. I have nothing further to announce at this time.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I think every member of the House is disappointed with that answer. The minister told us yesterday that he would give it consideration. In view of the very large number of young unemployed in Canada, and in view of the fact that more young Canadians are likely to be unemployed when they leave school this month and next month, will the minister now undertake to reconsider his program and put the LIP projects on the basis of their worthwhileness in terms of service instead of the irrelevant criterion he has now adopted?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, all those factors are being given consideration not only because of the representations of my hon. friend across the way but because of very considerable representations by members of my own party.

POLICIES TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—REVIEW OF PRESENT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO SEEK IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. While we welcome the news of a general decline in unemployment across the nation, in view of the fact that unemployment in the Atlantic region was 11.1 per cent last month, almost twice the national average and actually higher than it was at this time three years ago, is the Minister of Finance, along with the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, preparing a co-ordinated set of policies involving capital, transportation, manpower and taxes to reduce decisively the disparity of employment opportunities suffered in this region and, if so, when will a statement be made?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, although there is some improvement in the unemployment picture I am not satisfied with them in most areas of the country. But I should note that the hon. gentleman ought to take some comfort from the fact that in the Atlantic region the employment picture increased by 20 thousand in April over March. We will continue, with the co-operation of my colleague, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, to increase opportunities in the Atlantic region.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Central Nova on a supplementary, and then will attempt to finish the first round of questions. I think I should recognize the hon. member for Champlain and after that return to all these supplementaries on the first and second questions which will take a few minutes.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer, and I should like to address a supplementary to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the goal of equitable employment opportunities for the Atlantic region and Quebec has obviously not been advanced suc-