

When the committee addresses itself to all aspects of the relocation and a great many different subjects, among the committee's concerns will be the effect of the move of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs and their families on the medical, health, cultural and educational facilities in P.E.I. There has been considerable discussion about the provision of public education in the second official language in Charlottetown when the department moves. It is considered a priority. In that respect, the provincial government has agreed that French language education will be available in Charlottetown by 1981. However—we must understand this—precise language training needs of employees of the department cannot be determined until closer to the actual relocation date.

Officials of the personnel section of the department have had consultations recently with a Holland college committee examining business courses to be offered, especially bilingual secretarial, administrative, stenographic and clerical. Former Charlottetown mayor Frank Zakem, who is also principal of Holland College's Charlottetown centre, says that these post-secondary courses which, he predicts, might begin in 1979 will emphasize skills in bilingualism.

However, I should like to emphasize again that the extent of the requirement for French language training will not be definitely known until it is determined how many French speaking employees will choose to relocate. Here are some of the statistics we have already drawn up indicating the number of personnel interested in relocating. The result of the department's first relocation questionnaire circulated to all Department of Veterans Affairs' employees shows that out of 228 employees whose mother tongue is French, 32 indicated they would make the move the Charlottetown, 135 said they would not, and 61 were undecided. Out of the survey of the Anglophone speaking employees—there are 454 of them—108 said they would relocate, 200 said they would not, and 146 were undecided. To put these figures together and to put it all in perspective, 20.5 per cent of the head office staff indicated a willingness to relocate, 49 per cent said they were not planning to relocate, and 30.4 per cent were undecided.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hour appointed for private members' business having expired I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

● (2002)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

80033-31½

Supply

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

INTERIM SUPPLY FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1979

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Cullen (for the President of the Treasury Board) that Bill C-31, for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1979, be read for the second time and referred to committee of the whole.

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, before the House recessed at 5 p.m., I was dealing with agriculture and the dairy products promotion program. I should have stressed that the advertising campaign will centre on cheese, because consumption is increasing and the annual cheese consumption per capita is in the neighborhood of 15 pounds, while it is double that figure in some European countries.

In the area of market research, funds will be used for finding new markets for the existing dairy products. As an illustration, one project will go into the possibility of increasing daily sales in restaurants, hotels and institutions. The Canadian Farm Economic Research Council received grants to research the use of powder skim milk in animal feeding and various studies are under way on the economic aspects of feeding powder skim milk to suckling calves.

Over the last few years, milk overproduction and low demand for powder skim milk, a by-product of butter manufacturing, has been one of the main problems in that area. Butter and powder skim milk surpluses from increased world dairy production and lower butter consumption depressed world prices to a fraction of their normal level. The Canadian government is supporting the domestic price of powder skim milk at the 72 cents per pound level, while world price plummeted to 20 cents and less. In order to export, Canadian producers must therefore pay some 50 cents a pound, which significantly curtails their level of revenues. This is why I referred earlier to the \$152 million government subsidy in the form of export debt write-off, the debt incurred by producers.

Mr. Speaker, of course in this time of year, in mid-March, there is talk of the forthcoming dairy policy. A number of Liberal members and myself are now attending various meetings, in a concerted effort to convince cabinet to approve and announce the best possible dairy policy. This would be forthcoming in the beginning of April. Last year, we succeeded in obtaining a very good dairy policy and this year we would like this policy to be even better, in the interest of all our farmers.

I have every reason to hope, Mr. Speaker, that the dairy policy for 1978-79 will be most profitable, not only for the producers but also for the consumers, that is for the people