

[Translation]

## YOUTH

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION OF PRESENT POLICY

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Secretary of State. Considering the interest that young people are taking in the Opportunities for Youth Program and the fact that the government has probably discussed that question recently, could the minister give us the assurance that this policy will be continued and, if not, would he be able to make a statement on that matter?

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, no final decision has been made yet on that matter, but it seems to me that before long I will be able to make a statement concerning this program.

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[English]

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## TREATMENT OF SEVERANCE PAY AS INCOME IN CALCULATING BENEFITS

**Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister giving consideration to removing the regulation which treats severance pay as income for the purpose of calculating unemployment insurance benefits in light of the fact that a number of inequities have arisen from that situation?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** No, Mr. Speaker. We have been reviewing the regulation in order to limit possibly the apportionment of severance pay over a maximum of 32 weeks, thus eliminating or preventing the danger of people being denied unemployment insurance as a result of having worked a full 20 weeks prior to the 32 weeks, but we certainly have no intention of withdrawing that feature of the act.

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## PUBLIC SERVICE

## EXPEDITING OF PROVISION OF SEVERANCE PAY TO LAID-OFF EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board. Has he taken any steps to ensure that severance pay owing to former employees of the federal government who have been laid off is being provided to them much more rapidly than has been the case in the past, in light of the fact they must live on severance pay for a number of weeks before they can get unemployment insurance? I mention in particular over 40 people from the Canadian Armed Forces base, Gimli.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Supply and Ser-

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

vices, has been conducting a review of pay operations in his department, and one of the objects of it is to speed up this process to which reference has been made.

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[Translation]

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

## LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—AUTHORITY OF MANPOWER CENTRES TO STUDY WORK PROJECTS

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question to direct to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

A short while ago, he was dealing with long term programs for the Maritimes. Since the announcement of the new federal winter works program, are the Manpower Centres now empowered to hold talks with the municipalities of Canada—and not only of a part of the country—in order to launch immediately or as soon as possible projects which can be authorized?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, this question should rather be directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, who has jurisdiction over Manpower Centres. I submit that the present negotiations between the provinces and the federal government should continue before Manpower Centres are authorized to consider any application.

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[English]

## INCOME TAX ACT

## SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE AS EXPENSE ADVERTISING ON BROADCASTING STATIONS SERVING CANADIANS

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the government considered the recommendation made by the CRTC in July that section 12(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act should be amended so as to include as a legitimate expense broadcast advertising on television and radio stations providing a service to Canadians?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** This has not been considered by the government to the present, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Murta:** In view of conflicting statements made in Manitoba I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he has had any consultations with the chairman of the CRTC with respect to their call for amendment of section 12(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act and, if so, can he inform the House as to the nature of those consultations?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, there has been no consultation whatever. The matter has not been considered by my department in any way up to the present time.

**Mr. Baldwin:** That will be in the budget for November.

**Mr. Benson:** For next week. It's every Thursday.