

*Business of the House*

Affairs, we decided to wait until the date of the publication of the new regulations in *The Canada Gazette* before studying the representations which might have been made to us during that period of time. The officials of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and of the Metric Commission have now undertaken that study and I have no intention at this time to propose any change to the date for implementing the metric system conversion of scales used in retail food outlets.

[English]

REQUEST THAT CONSULTATION BE EXPEDITED

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** My supplementary question stems from knowledge of the fact that there is to be a meeting with the retail grocers this Wednesday. The Metric Commission, at great expense to the Canadian taxpayers, will be flying to St. John's, Newfoundland, on June 17 to determine whether the people of Newfoundland want metric on January 1 and Canadian measurement made illegal. Will the minister speed up the process so that these businesses can function within their budgets on January 1, and advise the major chain stores whether they have to purchase American metric weigh scales for January 1.

[Translation]

**Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Madam Speaker, there are several inaccuracies in the question and comments of the hon. member. First of all, I fail to understand why he should criticize the fact that officials of the Metric Commission travel to St. John's, Newfoundland. In my opinion, the established practice is that the members of the board of the Metric Commission hold hearings throughout Canada to give to all interested Canadians an opportunity to appear before the commission and make their representations. I believe he said that we ought to state clearly whether or not the conversion will take place. I think I did just that in my previous answer.

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[English]

### EMPLOYMENT

ADULT ACADEMIC UPGRADING AT NIAGARA COLLEGE

**Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines):** Madam Speaker, I have a short and direct question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Why at Niagara College is one of the most basic programs, that of adult academic upgrading for people wanting to better themselves, being phased out, terminating the upgrading of some 230 students and either resulting in a discharge or transfer of some 16 college instructors?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I cannot reply to the specific question of the hon. member. I can indicate that the planning of the curriculum in each of the community colleges is done

jointly with the provincial governments which really have the basic responsibility for education under their jurisdiction. We have a manpower needs committee that works with each of the provinces and tries to plan the most appropriate courses to meet the demand where the most skills are required.

● (1500)

I would be glad to look into the specific case, but I can indicate to the hon. member that this is a decision that is really based upon where the demand and the need for training are the greatest, and where the allocations will do the most good.

REASON FOR DEPARTMENTAL DECISION

**Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines):** Madam Speaker, I direct my supplementary question to the same minister. As the minister knows full well, the province of Ontario program is based on the number of seats purchased by Manpower, and the province only purchases some 20 per cent of those sponsored by Manpower. When Manpower cuts off its sponsorship and allocates funds to different programs, then there is a substantial reduction in the number of persons allowed to take part in the program. This has now resulted in a phasing out of the program at Niagara College. I would appreciate knowing why the minister is placing this kind of roadblock in the way of people who need this kind of basic training in order to find a way in life and find opportunities as a result of at least a grade 12 level of education.

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I would agree with the hon. member. This is one of those cases where the federal government pays most of the bills and provincial governments take most of the credit. The fact of the matter is that we consult with provincial governments on the allocation of those funds. It is really a judgment made as a result of those consultations that determines the allocation, but it is the province of Ontario through its department of education that must make the real decision as to where the general bloc of funds we allocate to the province is directed.

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### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Knowles:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order relating to the business of the House which arises out of two exchanges during the question period. When the proposal was first made that the three parties might each contribute a day to a foreign affairs debate or, more specifically, to a North-South debate, we said we were willing to give a day toward that. As matters stand we have only one opposition day left in this month, which is next Tuesday, June 16, and we plan to put down a motion for that day on North-South. Even if the Conservatives will not join I invite the government to add a day so we can have at least a two-day debate on this important subject.