

[English]

FLOODSDATE OF COMPLETION OF STUDY OF MEASURES TO PREVENT
FLOODING IN MONTREAL AREA

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment. Can the minister report a completion date for the study, jointly undertaken by his predecessor and the Quebec provincial government minister in 1974, to investigate what action could be taken in respect of the high water levels in the back river of Montreal and the Lake of Two Mountains to reduce the damage from the flooding which has recurred again this year?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the undertaking then taken by the Minister of the Environment was carried out. Within a few weeks I should receive an interim report and in June we will get the official report on the study made on floodings of rivers in the vicinity of Montreal.

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MANPOWERPOSSIBLE RENEWAL OF LOCAL INITIATIVES PROJECTS AND
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

The great majority of members acknowledge the value of the Local Initiatives Program and its favourable effects on reducing unemployment during the difficult periods of the year. The Richmond constituency benefitted from this program and greatly appreciates it.

In connection with the LIP, can the minister assure the House that it will be renewed for the year 1976-77 and if so can he say whether the budget earmarked for the LIP will be as substantial as last year's?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there has been no change in the decision announced in the House in, I believe, December which indicated that the budget for 1976-77 will be \$100 million for a program that might be adapted in some ways, but it will be essentially the same as and have the objectives of the Local Initiatives Program.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Is the minister in a position to say on what criteria or general standards the government will base the distribution of the budget earmarked for the Local Initiatives Program among the various parts of Canada?

[English]

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, the formula for distribution of the funds has been a matter of public record for several years. Essentially, it has increasingly been directed to

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areas of high unemployment. That is the intention when we develop the formula for the winter of 1976-77.

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● (1450)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSCAMBODIA—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ALLEGED VIOLATIONS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS—SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL OF AID

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister, through sources in Thailand or through the United Nations, received any further information on the situation in Cambodia about which there is considerable disquiet and several questions have been asked in the House in recent weeks?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to get reliable information from Cambodia at the present time with respect to any violations of human rights that may exist. As I mentioned in reply to an earlier question, we are concerned about any violation of human rights which may take place. There is, as the hon. member may know, a sub-commission of the United Nations on discrimination and protection of minorities which is responsible for monitoring these situations, but that body takes up questions only when reports are made by individuals or groups who have direct and reliable knowledge as to the occurrence of such violations in the area.

Mr. Johnston: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Given the rejection of this country apparently by the government there and the abrupt change of head of state in Cambodia, and in view of the stories that have trickled out from Cambodia, is Canada considering withdrawing its recognition and aid to the Khmer Rouge regime as an indication of our concern?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the answer is that we do not provide any aid, humanitarian or otherwise, to that particular country.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRSISSUANCE OF NEW PERMITS TO DRILL FOR OIL ON NATIVE
LAND—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It has been reported today that 68 new permits have been issued on native land in the Northwest Territories covering 12 million acres, an increase of over 375 per cent over last year's 18 permits. Would the minister confirm the report or otherwise; and further, would he advise the House why he did not—and I repeat, did not—consult with the Inuit Tapisat prior to the issue of those permits, as had apparently been promised in their presentation to cabinet on February 27 of this year?