

Oral Questions

would indicate that my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, in a recent paper and statement indicated the consideration by the government of an employment strategy in connection with income security. I will also add, for the hon. member's information, a reference to our comments earlier when we extended the Local Initiatives Program this summer in which we gave a fair warning to those people who received extensions that they were for a precise period of time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may ask a supplementary, but there are only three or four minutes before the end of the question period. Perhaps I could have the co-operation of hon. members to allow as many questions as possible without supplementaries.

Mr. Roche: Mr. Speaker, is it now the policy of the government not to merge LIP and OFY, and when can we expect a clear statement of policy?

Mr. Adras: Mr. Speaker, no such policy decision has been made. It is still the subject of examination and we are proceeding to a decision as quickly as is wisely possible.

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TRANSPORT

REMOVAL OF "IRVING WHALE" FROM ST. LAWRENCE— REASON FOR DELAY

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is it the intention of the government to attempt to remove the *Irving Whale* from the Gulf of St. Lawrence before winter sets in and, if this is not the case, could he assure the House that the delay is caused solely by engineering and physical problems, rather than by any other problems? Would the minister assure us that the rumour that there is a police investigation into the circumstances under which the government attempted to let a contract for this undertaking is not accurate and that is not, in fact, the cause of the delay?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the police investigation is completed and the attorney general of Nova Scotia has a report. What action he will be taking, I do not know. The decision about the removal of the *Irving Whale* has no relationship to the other investigation.

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INFORMATION CANADA

SUGGESTED DISBANDMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Since the Prime Minister has now expressed his view that Information Canada has failed because of "the general suspicion that it was a propaganda machine", is it the government's intention to disband Information Canada?

[Mr. Andras.]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): No, it is not, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member is aware from the proceedings which took place before the committee, we were prepared to acknowledge that it has not been able to fulfil its mandate in terms of the federal presence in Canada, as the Prime Minister indicated. That is in no way to indicate that something still cannot be done in that connection. I am certain it is the wish of all hon. members that that objective be reached.

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AGRICULTURE

CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGE FACILITIES FOR FRUIT— GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister tell us when legislation will be introduced for the subsidization of capital construction of storage facilities for tender fruit growers and apple growers of Canada? I refer to construction for the purpose of increasing storage facilities, which would reduce waste in peak periods of production and would also indirectly increase our food production and help stabilize fruit prices to the consumer.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member has been reading one of my old speeches that some people say were non-productive. But if he can wait a few more days, I am sure he will be satisfied.

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GRAIN

WHEAT—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE CONSUMER SUBSIDY PAID TO PRODUCER AND NOT ON ACREAGE BASIS

Mr. Norval Horner (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact that the wheat growers will no longer be called upon to subsidize the Canadian consumer, could the minister go further and assure the wheat producer that he will not be asked to subsidize the rapeseed growers and the barley growers, and will he assure the producer that the \$1 consumer subsidy will be paid directly to the wheat producer and not on an acreage basis?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, that argument is one that has gone on for some time about the best method of paying the \$60 million representing the \$1 a bushel for wheat consumed in Canada. When the producers themselves, all of whom are potential wheat producers, were consulted about the matter they voted 87 per cent in favour of an acreage payment.