

Inquiries of the Ministry

he and his colleague had met with the railway presidents.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Is this the case, or have they yet met with the presidents of the railways?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is simply repeating the question asked by the hon. member for Cumberland.

Mr. Nielsen: Where is the answer?

Mr. Speaker: It is not the responsibility of the Chair to see that an answer is given. If after a question is asked there is no answer then we go on to another question.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the responsibility of a minister in answering, if he so chooses, any question put in this house is to answer it accurately. The Minister of Labour was far from accurate.

MANPOWER**REPORTED CLOSING OF IMMIGRANT TRAINING CENTRES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration arising out of a matter raised by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam. Have the Riverdale Collegiate training centre and the Castle Frank training centre for immigrants or other training centres for immigrants been closed down? If so, is this due, as Mr. Fenwick has said, to the government's austerity program?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I doubt that the second part of the question can be asked. The hon. member is asking for an opinion. I have the impression that the first question has already been asked.

Mr. Brewin: May I ask the first question, then? Perhaps the minister will tell the house whether these centres have in fact been closed.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice and answer it on Monday.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister about other statements that [Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South).]

have been made by Mr. Fenwick with respect to the curtailment of the manpower training program, which has been reduced from some 2,000 referrals in April to 500 in September? May I also ask the minister about the statement made by Mr. Raymond Poirier, manager of the manpower training centre in Montreal, that out of 63,000 unemployed in Montreal—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member should ask a question.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask whether it is true that out of 63,000 unemployed in Montreal only 1,000 are receiving training? May I ask the minister to tell the house whether or not the program is being curtailed at the very time that unemployment is rising?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand: I also take this question as notice and I will reply on Monday.

[English]

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has it been brought to his attention that the basic grading features of literacy and skill in the manpower training program have been drastically cut back and reduced in different parts of the country? If the minister is aware of this reduction in manpower training program offerings, can the minister tell us why this is the case?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I fail to see how this type of question can be asked as an oral question at this time.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**FEDERAL REPRESENTATION AT MEETING RESPECTING ATLANTIC REGION LAY-OFFS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport but in his absence may I direct it to the Prime Minister.

Yesterday I asked the Minister of Transport whether he would be present at a mass meeting to be held this coming Sunday in Sydney regarding the drastic lay-offs of C.N.R. employees in the Atlantic region, and at that time the minister said he would not be present. I presume he planned on being in western Canada. As a supplementary question I asked whether the government would