

growth for the year 1974, of between 4 per cent and 4½ per cent. I should say to the hon. member that if the real growth were to be zero in the fourth quarter and no revisions take place in other quarters, the year over year growth for 1974 would still turn out to be 3.9 per cent.

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#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

INVESTIGATION BY POLICE FORCES OF ALLEGATIONS MADE IN ONTARIO LEGISLATURE—POSITION OF FEDERAL MEMBERS

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister of Finance claims his is an open government, in relation to the various allegations made prior to July 8 and just recently respecting the hon. member for Hamilton East, my question to the Solicitor General is, can he tell us, of his knowledge, how many investigations either by the RCMP or other law enforcement agencies have taken place in respect of those allegations?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned last week following the charges made by Mr. Schulman, the Minister of Labour and the deputy minister requested an investigation. The RCMP were asked to investigate those charges. They did that. They went to see Mr. Schulman last week, and Mr. Kerr, and also visited the offices of the Toronto metropolitan police. Just as I came into the House I received an interim report from them: the investigation is still under way. That is the stage of the investigation so far.

**Mr. Lawrence:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Solicitor General inform the House if there have been investigations other than within the last 12 months in respect of the allegations made relating to the hon. member for Hamilton East?

**Mr. Allmand:** There was no investigation of allegations made against the hon. member for Hamilton East. The investigation that is being made is at the request of the Minister of Labour following the charges made by Mr. Schulman. So far as we know, the RCMP has no other investigation under way on this matter. It arose simply from allegations made by Mr. Schulman last week.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Nor have there been any.

**Mr. Allmand:** Not by the RCMP. I cannot answer for the OPP or the Toronto metropolitan police.

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[Translation]

#### MANPOWER

OFY AND LIP PROGRAMS—INQUIRY WHEN GOVERNMENT WILL ANNOUNCE NEW POLICY

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since unemployment in 1975 promises to be severe, especially for young people under 25, and that high school and

#### Oral Questions

university students are already quite concerned about the very serious difficulties with which they will very likely be faced when they seek employment next summer, can the minister advise the House whether the Opportunities for Youth Program, in its present formula, will be extended to 1975, or whether, in view of the well founded criticisms which have been levelled at the Opportunities for Youth and Local Initiatives Programs, we can expect his department to adopt a new procedure in this area and, if so, when will the minister be in a position to make public the new program decided upon?

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the question having to do with a student summer employment program is under active consideration now. Announcement of the decision concerning our programs or the content thereof will be made shortly. I might also add, for the edification of the hon. member, the further report that the evaluation process with regard to the Opportunities for Youth Program and the Local Initiatives Program has indicated these have brought great benefits to the people concerned and to this country.

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● (1500)

#### POST OFFICE

GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION INTO CAUSES OF FIRES WHERE ARSON SUSPECTED

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. I join in the praise given by the minister to both the Toronto police and fire departments for the efficient manner in which they brought last week's disastrous post office fire under control in that city. I ask the minister whether, because of the fact that initial investigations have determined the cause of the second fire at Bay and Front Streets to be of a deliberate nature and that arson has not been ruled out in the major fire, he could advise the House if there is any federal inquiry into this matter and, if not, is the minister now prepared to initiate such special federal inquiry?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, we are waiting for the report of the fire marshal in the city of Toronto to ascertain precisely the reason for the major fire.

**Mr. Jelinek:** I should like to ask the minister the following supplementary question. Because of the fact that the fires involved federal employees and took place in federal buildings, destroying or damaging thousands of pieces of mail which fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government, is the minister suggesting that no federal body or agency is involved in determining the cause of the fire?

**Mr. Mackasey:** No, Mr. Speaker, but at the same time we do not want to leave the impression that we have no confidence in the ability of the fire marshal of the province of Ontario.