

*Inquiries of the Ministry***LABOUR CONDITIONS****UNEMPLOYMENT—INQUIRY AS TO SPECIAL WINTER PROGRAM**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Having regard to the fact that the seasonal unemployment figure is the highest since 1963, is the government contemplating any special program to alleviate unemployment this winter when unemployment is usually higher than at any other time of the year?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we are waiting for a reaction from the Prices and Incomes Commission which has been faced with a new position by the labour unions. We will see if we have to have other policies to combat inflation which will do it in a way that will not increase unemployment.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the unemployment problem is already here, may I ask the Prime Minister whether any information has been conveyed to either the provincial governments or the municipalities, to the effect that the government intends to introduce an improved and adapted winter works program in the coming months.

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member knows, the winter works program has been replaced by a much more productive and useful program, that of manpower retraining, and we do not want to go back to old programs.

[Translation]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****REPLY TO PROTEST RESPECTING VISIT OF JEAN DE LIPKOWSKI**

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Prime Minister. Could he tell us if he has received an answer to the note of protest he has sent to the French government with regard to the famous Lipkowski affair?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question. Could the Prime Minister tell us if communications [Mr. Trudeau.]

have been exchanged between himself and the government of Quebec in that connection?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**TRADE****WHEAT—CONTRACT WITH U.S.S.R.—FUTURE SALES**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Humboldt. It has to do of course with the assumption of his new responsibilities—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —in connection with wheat with which I hope he will be more successful than with some of the other responsibilities that have fallen on him recently. I should like to ask him whether he is in a position to advise us on the present situation relative to the 135 million bushels of wheat which were comprised within the three year contract that terminated in July. Have any final arrangements been made respecting the terms, the price, etc. for these 135 million bushels, and when is a meeting expected between the authorities in Canada and the food authorities in the U.S.S.R. concerning not only the 135 million bushels but also future sales of wheat to that country?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the right hon. gentleman is aware of the fact that when the foreign minister of the Soviet Union was in Canada he made a very positive response in connection with the negotiations which were to be undertaken relative to the past and future contracts for wheat between our two countries. It has not been the practice in the past, and I do not intend that it should be my practice in the future, to discuss in public negotiations which are under way or about to be undertaken. This is not the best way to negotiate. Therefore, I will not talk about specific details until these negotiations are completed.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** May I then pass on to the minister the fact that the meeting is to take place in about six weeks time. He does not know anything about it yet, it seems.

**WHEAT—MOVEMENT THROUGH PORT OF VANCOUVER**

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** I should like to ask the Minister of Labour a