

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Broadview? The hon. member for Nickel Belt.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

BENEFIT CONTROL—POLICY RESPECTING LANGUAGE CAPABILITY, OTHER THAN ENGLISH OR FRENCH, OF OFFICERS IN CERTAIN AREAS

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that many areas in Canada have large immigrant populations whose language is neither French nor English, can the minister advise the House as to the policy of his department with respect to language capability of benefit control officers in those areas?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this matter is being given attention, and to the degree practical and possible language services other than French and English are being provided to where claimants have difficulty in understanding.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain rising on the same question?

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TRADESMEN IN ORDER TO RECEIVE BENEFITS—ALLEGED EXPULSION THREAT BY UNIONS IF NON-UNION JOB ACCEPTED

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to talk about the two official languages. My question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is it the policy of the government that an unemployed tradesman simply has to register with the Unemployment Insurance Commission and his local union in order to receive benefits, or does he also have to register with Manpower and seek work himself?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, first of all he has to qualify under all the regulations and rules of the Unemployment Insurance Act, but he has to register with the Manpower centre in his area and he is requested to seek work beyond any reference by Manpower. The general practice, where this exists, is to go through union hiring halls and this is acceptable except where the extension of unemployment is very long and where there are identified jobs for which he is capable. Then there will be other directions given to him.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Is the minister aware of the muscle being exerted by international unions, with threats of union expulsion if a tradesman accepts a non-union job in a related field? If so, in such cases does the Unemployment Insurance Commission allow these persons to continue to receive benefits after they have refused employment because of their fear of being expelled from their union?

Oral Questions

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, there is protection in the act for union members and the rules and regulations under which membership is maintained, but where they are on extended benefits and their unemployment has lasted an inordinately long time, they are requested to take jobs beyond those referred to them by the union hiring hall.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Can the minister now answer my question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will again give the hon. member for Broadview a chance to ask his question. I am not sure whether he wants the floor.

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HOUSING

ACTION TO CONTROL RENTS IN LIMITED DIVIDEND PROJECTS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So many are jumping up that I am sure you have trouble in seeing me. My question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact that the intention of the limited dividend provisions of the National Housing Act is to provide low rent for persons with low incomes, and in view of the fact that the limited dividend group of the Dufferin project in the city of Toronto have advised the minister that their rents are as high, if not higher, than those of similar projects in the same area financed by private owners, what steps does the minister intend to take to lower the rents of persons in limited dividend projects?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the limited dividend program is to limit the return of the owner of the buildings and thereby provide housing at slightly less than market prices. However, the owners are entitled under the terms of the mortgage agreement to charge through rents for actual increases in costs. I have not yet seen the representations the hon. member refers to but I will get them out forthwith and examine that particular case. Of course, I have also instructed CMHC, as the hon. member knows, to examine all applications for expense increases as strictly as possible.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

INTENTION RESPECTING CUSTOMS SERVICE AT SIDNEY, B.C.

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of National Revenue. He is aware of the nature of my question because of the discussions we have had about it. Will the minister say whether he plans to continue or discontinue the customs service for parcels and other commercial consignments that has been enjoyed for so long by the businessmen of Sidney, British Columbia.