

*Oral Questions*

help, while at the same time cutting back on full-time and part-time employees of the Post Office.

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Mr. Speaker, I think instead of criticizing management for such a report, I should compliment them because they are trying to find ways to be more efficient. Again I state that there is no question of some workers losing their permanent jobs. One would have to go to some of our plants to see how a Post Office operation is handled: it is not easy, and sometimes we have to pay extra time and hire casual workers because of overvolume or accumulation of mail. If we want the mail to get out, we have to get it out with casual workers and extra time. It is a planned way to be more efficient and to try to save money for the taxpayers.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Postmaster General confirm that the instruction in the plan to optimize casual help is a direct attempt to undermine the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, and will he also assure the House that he is prepared to guarantee jobs for those workers presently serving on counter service and mail sortation?

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Mr. Speaker, no such instruction has been given in the way the hon. member mentioned. It is strictly a report given to me as suggestions.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** It says "must".

**Mr. Lamontagne:** They can say "must", but that does not mean it is going to be done. It is just a report given to management and to me to see how we perceive such suggestions. If it is done, it will be after consultation with the unions. I think it is absolutely normal that management should give me some ideas and new ways to save money.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

#### PROGRAM TO DEVELOP TOURISM IN QUEBEC

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Sometime in April, an agreement was signed by Quebec and the central government dealing with the development of tourism in Quebec. In the press release, a few projects are mentioned but it is also reported that there may be up to 80 of them.

Can the minister tell the House how one goes about benefiting from that program in areas where municipalities or other bodies may want to develop that industry in the interest of residents and visitors alike? I am thinking more specifically of the area south of the St. Lawrence along the American border, which Americans go through in large numbers.

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I can say to the hon. member for Bellechasse that several parties were involved in the consultations which resulted in the signing of that agreement. There were municipalities, it goes without saying, several private and public groups involved in the promotion, development and operation of tourist complexes, with either private or multiple operations. I might suggest to the hon. member that the organizations to which he has referred might go to the department of tourism, fish and game, in this instance, as well as to the high commissioner for youth, recreation and sports; they might also go to the Quebec planning and development bureau. I would suggest that those organizations also make representations to those various provincial bodies; they might also be well advised to send me or my deputy minister in Montreal copy of the documents or projects they may want to draw to my attention.

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

The minister stated in his reply that a private enterprise, an individual or a group of people could take advantage of such a program by submitting a project to whom it may concern. I should like to be understood: this will not be a profit-oriented enterprise but one which really wants to develop the industry in the area, something which would foster other developments.

**Mr. Lessard:** Mr. Speaker, I am in a position to confirm this, for among the projects which we have accepted to finance under the current agreement are several which will be carried out by non-profit organizations such as those mentioned by the hon. member, and of which I could name from memory at least four or five.

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● (1127)

[English]

### PIPELINES

#### NORTHERN PIPELINE—COMMITTEE STUDY OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council in his capacity of having jurisdiction over the pipeline agency. Is it the government's intention, as I have previously suggested, to reactivate the standing committee dealing with this specific matter, particularly in light of the imminent recess of parliament and the obvious difficulties the companies have with financing and possible delays with respect to technical difficulties, which have been reported in the press, so that while parliament is in recess, members could address themselves to these possible problems?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I would be ready to