

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

ARGENTIA, NFLD.—LAY-OFFS AT U.S. NAVAL BASE

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that the recently announced lay-offs of a large number of civilians at the U.S. naval base at Argentia could have a disastrous effect on the economy of the area can the minister say whether present manpower programs will be adequate to meet the seriousness of the situation or will new programs and expenditures be required?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we have been in touch with this situation for some time. My department is aware and is making available all the programs that are now in existence. At the present time we do not have any particular new programs to be administered by this department to meet that situation, but it seems to me that our present programs and services will be very helpful.

Mr. Carter: A supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, Mr. Speaker. What steps are being planned by his department to help alleviate the serious economic situation facing people in that area as a result of the lay-offs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking the minister to give the House a statement of a general nature which, I suggest to the hon. member, should normally be made by way of a statement on motions.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AID—INCLUSION OF RESEARCH CENTRE BUDGET IN CONTRIBUTION

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): I have a question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the statement made in Victoria, B.C. by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that Canada will be increasing its foreign aid expenditures, could the Prime Minister inform the House if the budget for the proposed foreign aid research centre will be considered part of the Canadian contribution?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Harding: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. How will the increased amount of overseas foreign aid be administered, particularly in Southeast Asia and Latin America, in view of the drastic cuts proposed in embassy staffs in those areas?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would not think that the question as asked is in order at this time.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. RESPECTING CLOSING OF BASES

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he indicate to the House the result of negotiations with the United States government regarding the economic disadvantage to Canada of the phase-out of many bases in this country as a result of the cut-backs in overseas expenditure by that government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will read the question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Lundrigan: There seems to be some confusion opposite, Mr. Speaker, as to who will field the question but I will direct it to the Prime Minister who seems to be ready to handle it.

Mr. Trudeau: I am always quite ready to handle questions but I was talking to one of my colleagues and did not hear the question.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, that just reflects the lack of sensitivity toward problems in this House, but I will direct the question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister indicate whether negotiations have taken place with the United States government regarding the planned phase-out of many bases in Canada and throughout the world, and the economic disadvantage caused by this? In other words, have we already had discussions and are we able to predict the effect of this phase-out on the nation over a long period of time?

Mr. Trudeau: As regards United States discussions with other nations, I do not know which minister could answer that, but as regards discussions with Canada concerning bases in Canada I will ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to report.

Mr. Lundrigan: A further supplementary question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask him or any other member of