

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not think any member of the House believes that Air Canada or the CNR make daily reports on all the transactions they are conducting in Canada. If hon. members want this to be so, we would have to modify the law.

Mr. Baldwin: I expected the minister to take notice of it, Mr. Speaker, and would he also take notice of this question. As Crown corporations are excluded from the provisions of the foreign investment review legislation, would the minister, when he is making inquiries, find out from the CNR what particular benefit there is to Canada in a transaction of this nature?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think the way the question is put is very civilized and I am going to do that.

* * *

HEALTH**SUGGESTED TESTS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FOR TROPICAL DISEASES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of admissions of South Vietnamese children, orphans and others, from this war torn area, since many of them come from areas where tropical diseases, intestinal parasites and so on, are common, can the minister assure the House that proper tests have been carried out to detect any such diseases and whether preventative inoculations have been carried out according to accepted principles?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is aware that Canada has one of the most comprehensive tests for immigrants, especially with regard to tropical disease. As for the Vietnamese, I am advised that this type of procedure has been followed in all cases and that tests and examinations have been carried out before entry. There have been a few cases where it has been impossible to carry out the tests before entry, but they were carried out immediately after entry and any indication of something abnormal was reported to the provincial health authorities for further action.

* * *

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**POSSIBLE INCREASE IN FUNDING TO COVER INCREASE IN BENEFIT PAYMENTS—NOTICE TO MINISTER OF FINANCE OF NEED FOR FUNDS**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, now that the net unemployment insurance benefit payments have increased by over \$200 million in the first quarter of this year as compared with the first quarter of 1974, will the Minister of Manpower and Immigration now tell the House whether his department's

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

anticipated transfer of \$890 million to the total unemployment insurance account will have to be increased by supplementary funding, and could the minister venture a projection as to what amount of supplementary funding will be required, given that the number of unemployed is hardly likely to decrease this year?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the amount of \$890 million is actually an estimate, and of course refers to what was required to supplement the government's cost of unemployment insurance benefits paid last year, not this year. Consequently it is an accurate figure. In fact, the amount required might be a few million dollars less than that, but it relates to unemployment for last year, not this year. In so far as a projection for this year is concerned, I indicated in another place that with variations in the levels of unemployment there would be variations in the levels of the benefits that will be required.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I would direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. In light of the fact that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration revealed last night that Canada can expect an even higher unemployment rate this year, the highest in some 14 years, and as it is clear that vastly increased government funding will be required to maintain the flow of benefits to an expected record number of unemployed claimants, will the minister inform hon. members as to whether he has received notice from his colleague, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, that heavy additional government expenditures will be required in this area?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): That is one of the matters in respect of which we are consulting, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

[Translation]

HEALTH**REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE CRIMINALS FROM FOOD PROCESSING AND PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Can he assure us and the Canadian public that, considering the recent revelations made before the Dutil Commission in Quebec and the previous findings of his investigators, he gave official and specific instructions to the services concerned within his department with a view to countering any eventual infiltration by organized crime in the field of food or pharmaceutical products, and can he tell the House whether there exists a standing interdepartmental committee working to subdue organized crime which, as is obvious, seeks to exercise activities beyond the control of citizens and of governments?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the hon. member's question, I would first like to take this opportunity to correct mistaken information that he submitted to the Canadian public last Friday, mistaken information that he