

Inquiries of the Ministry

—whether, in the interests of federal-provincial relations, it is still government policy to get approval from the provinces of policies in which they have a direct interest, prior to proceeding with them?

The Prime Minister replied in his usual way, "To get approval from the provinces when?" I said, "Prior to proceeding with these policies." The Prime Minister then said, "What policies is the hon. member talking about?"

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member please indicate his point of order. Will he please resume his seat for a moment. I think hon. members have a responsibility to their colleagues and must be as brief as possible when raising points of order during the question period.

Mr. Korchinski: I appreciate your comment, Mr. Speaker. May I continue? May I point out that the Prime Minister's final answer on that occasion was:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture tells me that there is no opposition, that the provinces agree with the program.

I have looked at a Canada Department of Agriculture press release dated February 14, in which the minister is reported as saying:

We were hopeful that the provinces would see fit to join us in a federal-provincial program, but agreement has not been possible to attain despite a year of negotiations and meetings.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must interrupt the hon. member. He has had the floor for some moments and he still has not indicated what his point of order is. Up to this point it appears that there has been merely a disagreement on what might have been said in the House by way of an answer, and that cannot be considered a legitimate point of order.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to you and to the House. It seems that a misleading answer was given, intentionally or otherwise, and I should like the matter to be corrected. I should like to know what the proper answer is with regard to this situation?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**POSSIBLE REVISION OF REGULATION RELATING TO SEVERANCE AND HOLIDAY PAY**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to an earlier question regarding changes in UIC regulations. Is the Minister of Manpower and Immigration in a position to announce to the House any changes in Unemployment Insurance regulations which would take into account complaints which have been registered concerning the connection between severance pay and holiday pay and the level of unemployment insurance benefits to which a man is entitled?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed the regulations and I must state categorically that I have no intention of providing Unemployment Insurance to anybody who is on

[Mr. Korchinski.]

vacation; nor do I have any intention of revising the regulations in such a fashion that the Unemployment Insurance Plan, which is an insurance plan, becomes nothing more than a welfare plan. On the other hand we are reviewing the regulations to see if some unintentional harm has been done to certain categories of workers. If and when I come to the conclusion that those regulations can be changed without weakening the insurance principle, then I will be prepared to bring forward those changes.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**REQUEST FOR REVISION OF TAXING POWERS TO ALLEVIATE BURDEN ON MUNICIPALITIES RESULTING FROM INCREASED PRICES**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Finance who was supposed to be here today. In his absence, since the Prime Minister is also absent now, may I direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. Since prices rose in such cities as St. John's, Ottawa and Toronto by over 4 per cent in the past year, is the government now willing to open up the area of tax redistribution with the provinces and cities in order to alleviate partly the strain on municipal costs and services which are rising?

Mr. Speaker: I trust that the minister can reply to the question briefly, because it is of very wide import. I doubt whether it can be answered by way of a reply during the question period.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government is concerned about rising prices, of course. I do not think that there is a very relevant connection between the cost of government services in those cities and the rise in the local cost of living.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**HOGS—SUBSIDIES TO CORPORATE PRODUCERS TO BUY CHEAPER FEED GRAIN**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture a question which is supplementary to the question asked by my colleague the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert).

Several breeders sometimes get together in order to buy at better price the feed for hogs. Could the minister tell us whether the regulations of the new plan providing a subsidy of \$5 per head, index 100, and more at slaughter, up to \$1,000 yearly by breeder, will also apply to each of the breeders grouped together that way?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, what we are asking from those people who make application where sales have been made in one name, whether by