

*Inquiries of the Ministry*UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR LATEST
STATISTICS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question arising out of the joint release issued by the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Trade and Commerce on unemployment conditions in Canada. Can the minister give us the latest figures of unplaced applicants beyond January 21? The figure which appears on the final page of this particular release, table 1, is as of January 14; 755,000. The minister has already given us the figure of 774,000 as of January 21. Will he give us the latest figure of the number of people who are looking for jobs?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as of January 28, 1960 the unplaced applicants, not just people looking for jobs—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is what they are.

Mr. Starr: —were 786,294.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Going up all the time.

SUGGESTED REACTIVATION OF MUNICIPAL
IMPROVEMENTS ASSISTANCE ACT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Labour a question. In regard to the winter works program, does the government realize the heavy financial burden that this imposes on the municipalities of Canada and, if so, is the government of Canada giving active consideration to the possibility of reactivating the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act so that full advantage might be taken of the intent of the winter works program?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, we have not had any complaints from municipalities along the lines the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam is getting out. Most certainly I think this matter should be discussed when the municipal incentive program is before the house.

Mr. Regier: Is the minister informing the house now that none of the municipalities have complained about their difficulty in raising the necessary capital in order to take the fullest advantage of this scheme?

Mr. Starr: I said it was the hon. member for Skeena. I am sorry; it was the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam. The answer is, not in respect of this program.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

[Later:]

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour arising out of the astonishing answer he gave to the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam. Was the minister not present when I spoke on the estimates respecting the winter works program and voiced the complaint of the municipal council of Timmins in regard to this program?

Mr. Starr: If the hon. member did that, it most certainly was not brought to my attention by the town of Timmins in any shape, manner or form. That is what I meant when I gave the reply I did.

[Later:]

Mr. Martin (Timmins): On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the answer given me by the Minister of Labour a few moments ago implies that I am not to be trusted to represent the views of the municipality I represent.

Some hon. Members: Oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member is reading more into the answer than there is. I see no question of privilege.

Mr. Starr: May I be allowed to say that I certainly did not have any such thought in my mind at all. What I said was that I did not receive personally anything of that nature from the town of Timmins.

WINTER WORKS—REQUEST FOR TABLING
OF PROJECTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): Might I ask whether the Minister of Labour is now in a position to table the list of projects under the winter works program, together with an estimate of their cost to the federal government and the number of persons who may be employed in each, so this information can be put on record in *Hansard* so as to be available for the debate.

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): On the urgent request of the hon. gentleman the other day I asked the staff of the department to employ themselves in getting this information. They worked half a day on Sunday and all day Monday, and yesterday they told me they were still working on this and hoped to have the information ready for me today.

BEAUSEJOUR, MAN.—STATEMENT ON CIVILIAN
PAY RATES AT U.S. AIR BASE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to reply