

their welfare payments and so on? Can the minister report on that matter?

**Mr. Speaker:** The minister can give the House a quick report or reply to the question briefly, but the hon. member is inviting the minister to give a reply that ought normally to be made on motions. However, the minister will be given the floor for the purpose of replying briefly to the question.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I will give an answer later to the hon. member. I am not in a position to give him any details at this point because it would take too long, but I will keep him posted on the situation.

\* \* \*

• (1450)

[English]

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE

##### ALLEGED INTENTION TO ABOLISH TRADITIONAL RANKS AND TITLES IN NAVY

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. In view of persistent reports that the government intends to abolish traditional ranks and titles in the Royal Canadian Navy and replace them with their army equivalents, would the minister advise the House whether the government is considering such a move or intends to take such action?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** No, Mr. Speaker. There is no change in that regard.

**Mr. Hees:** I know there is no change so far, but does the government intend to take such action or is it considering such action? Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps before rephrasing the question the hon. member might allow the minister to reply.

**Mr. Richardson:** No, Mr. Speaker; no such change is contemplated.

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[Translation]

#### FINANCES

##### WINTER PROJECTS CAPITAL FUND—POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF LOCAL INITIATIVES PROJECTS ALREADY REFUSED— REPRESENTATIONS TO PROVINCES

**Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance, if I may have his attention.

In the release issued jointly with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration on January 12, 1973, the minister told us of the investment fund program for winter works. Can he inform us now whether local initiatives projects refused for lack of funds, or at least those accepted by the

#### Oral Questions

provinces or municipalities can be granted through the \$350 million municipal-provincial fund?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if a municipality accepts a project approved by the provincial government, and which fills the terms of the contract, such project can be approved, but I am unable to answer unless I have all the particulars of a specific project.

**Mr. Caouette (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Charlevoix on a supplementary.

**Mr. Caouette (Charlevoix):** Since the funds do come from the Minister of Finance, can he guarantee that he will make representations to the provinces in order that some of the local initiatives projects which have been rejected may be reviewed?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** I believe on principle the matter is left to the discretion of the provinces. At any rate, I shall study the question. If I have any authority, I shall communicate with the hon. member.

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#### MANPOWER

##### LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

On two previous occasions the hon. Minister of Finance stated in reply to my questions that he would consider whether it was possible to increase funds allocated to local initiatives programs. Has he completed his study and is he in a position to announce whether further local initiatives programs can be approved?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

##### LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—ANNOUNCEMENT BY DEFEATED LIBERAL CANDIDATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECTS—DEPARTMENTAL POLICY

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and is further to the privilege I raised earlier regarding the Liberal candidate in my riding notifying applicants that their applications under the local initiatives program have been accepted. I should like to ask the minister whether it is the policy of his department to have former Liberal candidates announce such successful programs and, if so, are his officials acting upon instructions from the minister?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** No, Mr. Speaker, they are not acting under my instructions. I have had some indications that this sort