

[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—ALLEGED DELAY IN APPROVING CERTAIN PROJECTS IN QUEBEC

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

A large number of local initiative projects in Quebec have not yet been approved. The average is two or three in some constituencies. Could the minister tell the House on what grounds are those projects delayed, why members of parliament are not told of the real reasons and whether, as initially agreed, he intends to inform members of parliament about the study of the projects?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge there are only two constituencies in which there is a delay in giving approval to applications for local initiatives projects. They happen to be Liberal constituencies, although there are some few others projects in other constituencies that remain as matters of discussion between the sponsors and the advisers. They would not amount to more than 40 or 50 out of the several thousand submitted. Otherwise, all projects that are going to be approved have been announced.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that increases in the cost of clothing and personal and health care products—

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member but the hon. member for Lotbinière is rising on a point of order. Perhaps he might be recognized, after which I will come to the hon. member.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, the people in here who speak French must have realized that our excellent interpreter did not catch anything of what the hon. minister replied. Therefore, I am completely in the dark as to the minister's reply. With the consent of the House, therefore, would the minister kindly repeat what he said in order that, this time, I may have a chance to hear it?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps that might be allowed. The minister could respond to the question a second time, after which the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe. The minister might like to repeat the reply he gave to the hon. member a moment ago.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I indicated that only in two constituencies to my knowledge have the project applications not been dealt with, although there are individual projects in some other constituencies that are still in negotiation because some details have to be straightened out. The number would not amount to more than 40 or 50 projects among the many thousands that have been sub-

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mitted. In other words, all the projects that are going to be approved have been so indicated and the sponsors have been so notified.

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FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD

REQUEST THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE BE EXPANDED TO ENABLE INVESTIGATION OF INCREASES IN COST OF CLOTHING AND PERSONAL AND HEALTH CARE PRODUCTS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that increases in the cost of clothing and personal and health care products have doubled this year and since support of these increases is subject to doubt, would the minister expand the terms of reference of the Food Prices Review Board to give it authority to investigate the reasons for these increases which create a hardship on Canadians in meeting the inflationary cost of living?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this would be a matter for decision by the government since the terms of reference were established by order in council under the Inquiries Act. I am certainly willing to have this considered by my colleagues.

Mr. Marshall: Would the minister investigate the practice of some clothing manufacturers of refusing to sell to retail outlets that are willing to sell to consumers below the suggested retail price? This action is causing hardship and is against the act.

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to draw my hon. friend's question to the attention of the director of the combines branch so that he may consider whether this action amounts to an offence under the present combines law. There are certainly adequate provisions dealing with that practice in the bill that I presented before Christmas, and I hope we will be able to consider it early in the new year.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST THAT ALL PHOTOGRAPHS AND FINGERPRINTS BE RETURNED WHEN ACCUSED FOUND NOT GUILTY OR CHARGES DROPPED

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In cases where criminal charges have been dropped against an accused person or where an accused person has been found not guilty of any crime in a court of law, is the minister considering forcing all law enforcement agencies to return all copies of fingerprints and photographs to the accused?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, that question goes well beyond the jurisdiction of the Minister of Justice. Much of criminal law enforcement and administration is in the hands of the provincial Attorneys General. It is a question that might create some serious