

Oral Questions

the president when his retirement becomes effective in December of this year?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No, Mr. Speaker.

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CANADIAN COASTGUARD**POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFER OF COLLEGE FROM CAPE BRETON TO ONTARIO—VIEW OF NOVA SCOTIA PREMIER**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Transport. May I thank him for the one year's reprieve he has given respecting the future of the Canadian Coastguard College, which he officially announced this week. In light of the very important statement by Premier Regan in Sydney recently that he is against any move of the Canadian Coastguard College to Ontario where they have no ocean, will the hon. gentleman advise if the premier has conveyed this viewpoint to him, and in what form?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great care to the representation made by the hon. gentleman in the name of the premier of Nova Scotia.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE IN PREMIUMS**

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration following my question of last Tuesday. Is the minister aware that approximately 1,160,000 Canadians will be faced with a 98 per cent increase in their unemployment insurance premiums on January 1, 1974?

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am so startled by the arithmetic the hon. member uses on so many different occasions that I will really have to put that through the Belleville computer.

An hon. Member: It doesn't work.

An hon. Member: You would never get it back.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the minister. Since the minister has not checked it on his computer or any computer, is he aware of the growing hostility to the increase and will he now institute an inquiry to clarify this situation?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi.

QUEBEC—ALLEGED DELAY IN PROCESSING CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Manpower and

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

Immigration. As the backlog for evaluation of claims over one week old is now running between 25,000 and 30,000 in Quebec, can the minister tell the House what immediate action we can expect to solve this deplorable situation?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think I answered the hon. member the other day, refuting the premise of the question. Again I ask him to give me specifics, the location and details of claim problems he has, and we will be very glad to deal with them.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question. If the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will be recognized for a supplementary and then I will see the hon. member for Algoma and call orders of the day.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, if the minister refuses to accept my statistics or assertion, will he inform the House if he is informed of the backlog in evaluating claims over one week old and, if so, what is the reason and what will be done about them immediately?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I will do more than that. I instructed the chairman, following the hon. member's question the other day, to contact him forthwith to get the specifics. It is very difficult indeed to deal with generalities of this kind.

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ENERGY**REQUEST THAT FEASIBILITY OF BUILDING OIL PIPELINE FROM SAULT STE. MARIE TO MONTREAL BE STUDIED**

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the advantages of building an oil pipeline through northern Ontario from Sault Ste. Marie to Montreal, will the minister ensure that a full evaluation and feasibility study of this route will be carried out before a decision is made on the location of the Montreal pipeline?

● (1500)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, that is one of the considerations that will be before the government in making its decision.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE**ABORTION—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT ON VERDICT IN MORGENTALER CASE**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

A verdict of not guilty has been delivered recently in an abortion case. When addressing the jury the judge asked