

Oral Questions

force within NATO. I am not sure whether Canada's force is not the highest paid of any force in the world. That has been made possible as a result of the savings that we were able to effect within the force because of integration. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that going back to the different coloured uniforms would simply be an indication of a weakening of our resolve to maintain the integration of our armed forces.

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● (1150)

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. As he is aware, Saskatchewan is one of only two Provinces where unemployment went up last year. As a matter of fact, since the election of the Conservative Government in our Province the number of people looking for work has gone up by 82 per cent in the last year.

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Nystrom: The number of people on welfare has gone up 46 per cent in the last couple of years. I know Tory times are tough times, but that is no excuse for the Minister across the way not to have some special measures for my Province. Can he tell us what he plans to do to provide jobs in Saskatchewan, and is he planning on meeting our Premier very soon?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, as I pointed out earlier today, there is now and has been a considerable improvement in the employment picture across the country since November. I can only hope, if Saskatchewan is suffering a minor fluctuation, that the over-all improvement in the country will help. It seems to me the obvious answer to the question which the Hon. Member has posed is the removal of the Conservative Government in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

CROSS LAKE RESERVE—CONDITION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Over two years ago his Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development went to northern Manitoba and promised a new school to the residents of Cross Lake, an Indian reserve. Last week Howard Pawley and myself—

Mr. Murta: Howard who?

Mr. Murphy:—toured the present accommodations. There are holes in the floor of those school buildings through which you can put your foot. These are elementary classrooms. That promise was made over two years ago by the Government and it has not been fulfilled. Next week Treasury Board considers a submission for a new school in that area. I would ask the Prime Minister to use his good offices to make sure that submission is accepted, as was promised by his Minister.

[Translation]

Mr. André Maltais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is reviewing parts of the program where work has already been done, and a definite answer on the subject should be forthcoming within the next few weeks.

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[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION

PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE OF MINISTERS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. When a Minister is transferred from one portfolio to another, understandably he takes his personal correspondence with him. Keeping in mind the freedom of access to information provisions, what limits are put on the definition of personal correspondence, bearing in mind there is no access to information that has been shredded?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I suppose personal correspondence would first include all correspondence marked personal by the person who writes the letter.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Does this include interdepartmental correspondence, correspondence relating to the privileged information of citizens of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I am not sure whether that is two questions or whether it is the same one. Interdepartmental correspondence would not seem normally to me to be personal correspondence if it has to do with the affairs of Government. If it is between two Ministers of two different Departments, or somebody acting on their behalf, obviously it is covered by the exception relating to communications between Ministers of the Crown, Ministers of the Crown being bound by the oath I quoted earlier to keep correspondence between themselves private and privileged.