

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

FORTHCOMING MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER AND U.S. PRESIDENT—EFFECT ON PROPOSED VISIT BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO CANADA

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, earlier the Prime Minister indicated that one of the principal factors in his request for a meeting with President Nixon at this time was the more desirable timing. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether this is related to the proposed visit of President Nixon in the spring. Does this mean that President Nixon's visit to Canada will be cancelled or will it take place, and is the Prime Minister's meeting in addition to that?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I may have misunderstood the question but I shall attempt to answer what I heard. This is in addition to the meeting which will take place in the spring. There is no change of that plan.

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**MANPOWER**

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—ACTION TO ENABLE GREATER USE BY SMALL URBAN COMMUNITIES AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES IN SASKATCHEWAN

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration but in his absence I shall direct it to his parliamentary secretary or whoever is answering for the minister. Has the minister received a telegram from the President of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities protesting that the local initiatives program will be of little value to small urban communities and rural municipalities in Saskatchewan? If so, is the government taking any action to make it possible for such local governments to make greater use of this program than is now possible?

[Translation]

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I am not aware of such a telegram but I should be greatly surprised if it contained an allegation to the effect that the local initiatives program cannot assist smaller municipalities, groups or associations.

The program covers initiatives and if smaller municipalities, groups or associations in these smaller municipalities have enough initiative, I am sure they will be able to avail themselves most successfully of the program now established by the government.

[English]

**Mr. Burton:** Is the government considering any means whereby it might vary the proposed 30 man-month minimum limit so that it will be possible for some municipalities to take greater advantage of the program?

[Translation]

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that the hon. member's suggestion deserves consideration. Furthermore, if it became absolutely impossible for some municipalities, associations or groups to take advantage—

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The parliamentary secretary's reply is hypothetical. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO SMALL MUNICIPALITIES

**Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre):** I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary a supplementary question on the same line. What steps is the government taking to ensure that small municipalities that do not necessarily have a direct pipeline to the government get correct information upon which they can go ahead and make their plans concerning local initiatives?

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned they do not need a direct pipeline to the government because I think all our 350 or 390 manpower offices in Canada are well aware of that information and any little municipality or association or «groupe-ment» may avail itself or it by calling on any of these 350 or more manpower centres which have all the information necessary and are ready to help.

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

RECEIPT OF DECEMBER CHEQUES BY WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS AND PENSIONERS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

**Mr. J. Chester MacRae (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is the minister taking the necessary steps to see that the December cheques payable to war veterans allowance recipients, pensioned veterans and their dependants will be mailed in time to reach them before Christmas?

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, these cheques are not mailed by my department but by the Department of Supply and Services. I do not know exactly what day of the month the cheques are usually sent but I shall make it a point to see that our veterans get their cheques before Christmas.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

• (3:00 p.m.)

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS****INCOME TAX ACT**

The House resumed, from Friday, November 26, consideration in committee of Bill C-259, to amend the Income Tax Act and to make certain provisions and alterations in the statute law related to or consequential upon the amendments to that act—Mr. Benson—Mr. Honey in the chair.