

a transfer of production of Pontiacs from Ste. Thérèse to the United States?

Hon. Jean Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker. My information is that General Motors will be making an announcement sometime in January to that effect. It would, of course, be made known to the public at that time.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC WITH RESPECT TO DEFINITION OF "CIVIL SERVANT"—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour.

Since a meeting had been scheduled between the Quebec Civil Service Minister and federal officials, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he received an answer from the Quebec Civil Service Minister; if not, does he intend to meet the Quebec minister to reach an agreement on the new Unemployment Insurance Act?

[English]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): There has been almost continuous discussion going on at the official level between the Unemployment Insurance Commission and the governments of many of the provinces, and I have nothing to add at this moment.

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MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR EXPEDITING APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that his staff in charge of processing applications in connection with the local initiatives program is working night and day but is still behind in getting some of these projects approved and under way, may I ask whether the hon. gentleman would consider putting additional staff to work, bearing in mind that a deadline has been set? In all fairness, I must commend the minister for the co-operation I have received in connection with a number of projects.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I should like to thank the hon. member for his kind remarks. In part, the heavy work load is due to extra checking in connection with a number of projects following representations by hon. members and others. I am satisfied that the progress made in approving applications has now achieved a very good pace and that approvals will be forthcoming very quickly to the extent of the money available.

Inquiries of the Ministry

POLLUTION

E.B. EDDY PLANT—COST OF REMOVAL

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Bearing in mind the statement the minister made outside the House in relation to the affairs of the national capital I should like to ask him whether he will be making a statement inside the House when he has established the cost of taking over, at public expense, the E.B. Eddy plant in Hull as part of an environmental clean-up?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I made no statement on that subject containing any figures. No figures have yet been established, and I did say they had not been established. When they have been, I shall certainly be prepared to consider making a statement in the House.

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INCOME TAX

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF NEW REGULATIONS— POSSIBLE CONFUSION RESULTING FROM DELAY

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Would the minister advise us whether the income tax regulations necessary following the passage of Bill C-259 will be ready by January 1? How long will those in business and the professions have to wait before they can examine these regulations which govern at least 50 per cent of tax administration?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): The regulations have been in preparation but it would, of course, be presumptuous for us to release regulations before the legislation has received Royal Assent, something which presumably will happen today. We are working as fast as we can to get the regulations out as early as possible.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): To the extent that publication of such regulations is delayed after January 1, would the minister agree that considerable confusion will exist in the minds of the public since more than 50 per cent of the administration is governed by regulations?

Mr. Benson: I would not agree with that premise at all. Many of the regulations made in connection with the old act will continue. After all, this is not a new act. It is an act amending an existing act, and many of the regulations will continue.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

COMPLAINTS RESPECTING STUDY OF APPLICATIONS FOR BENEFITS—MEASURES TO IMPROVE SERVICE

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Labour.

In view of the increasing number of complaints we are receiving, particularly with the approach of Christmas,