

*Oral Questions***UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****POSSIBILITY OF FORCING CLAIMANTS TO ACCEPT AVAILABLE JOBS**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I hope the minister also approves of the idea, as reported, of making sure that welfare recipients accept available jobs. This to me is an indication that perhaps the same thing could work with respect to UIC claimants accepting available jobs; this has certain merit. I wonder whether the minister is thinking along these lines, and is it his intention to bring in legislation making or forcing UIC claimants to accept available jobs?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Provision regarding availability for work and acceptance of suitable jobs is already embedded in the Unemployment Insurance Act, and is being monitored within the guidelines and regulations attributable to that legislation.

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[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON STUDY OF FOOD PRICES BY REVIEW BOARD**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary arising from the question put by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

The report submitted by marketing expert Bruce Mallen for the Food Prices Review Board was tabled yesterday. It appears from it that Canadians are paying about 4 per cent too much for food and that this seems to result from the quasi monopoly which eliminates competition among the four major food retailers, namely Dominion, Weston-Loblaw, Canada Safeway and Steinberg. Is the minister now in a position to clear up this question or can he inform the House if he intends to implement the recommendation contained in the report to present legislation to enable the chain supermarkets to expand again, particularly where they already serve large areas ranging all the way up to 94 per cent of the market?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is a very interesting suggestion which deserves study. However, I repeat what I have said earlier to the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville, that this report was handed down to the director of combines investigation so that he might study the section concerning the overly large corporate concentration.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**STATUS OF MANITOBA CONTRACTS FOR ORION PARTS**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Nation-

[Mr. Andras.]

al Defence. On December 1, 1975, in the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, he stated that \$560 million of contractual work would be done in Canada in the manufacturing of parts for the new Lockheed Orions, and that \$50 million of this work would be done in Manitoba. Can the minister inform the House what is the status of these contracts in light of the latest development—that the government may not be purchasing the Orions?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, none of the arrangements for industrial benefit are themselves in jeopardy; but, as the hon. member knows, the contract itself is in its final stages of negotiation by the Department of Supply and Services.

Mr. McKenzie: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. At the committee meetings the minister stated that the work "would be starting now", meaning December 1, 1975. He further stated that Standard Aero in Winnipeg will not have to wait but will start to get work now. Has Standard Aero actually started making parts for Orions?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, until the main contract has been signed there will be no work for any companies in Canada.

POSSIBLE OPENING OF SUFFIELD RANGE FOR GRAZING

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question for the Minister of National Defence. It relates to the recent decision by the Department of National Defence to close the PFRA Suffield community pasture near Medicine Hat. In view of the fact that this decision means that approximately 5,000 head of breeding cattle will have to find new homes for summer grazing or be put on the market, I ask the minister if he will give immediate consideration to rescinding the departmental order in view of the recommendation from PFRA to his cabinet colleague, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, that this pasture should be operated as a permanent PFRA pasture and not on the present temporary basis.

● (1450)

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the general practice over the years has been that the Suffield range was opened for grazing in emergency circumstances, particularly in a very dry season. As the hon. member knows, the grass crop has been excellent, so there has been no emergency and therefore it was decided not to open the range for grazing this year.

Mr. Hargrave: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Defence. Will the minister then indicate if he is now able to supply copies of the three reports I have requested in writing which deal with this very urgent situation and especially the report from the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, I will look at the hon. member's request and if it can be carried out it will be. I do not know what the reports contain.