

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

## MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—MONTREAL—INQUIRY  
RESPECTING CONTINUATION OF PROJECTS

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, before asking my question, I am sure I will have the unanimous consent of the House, and your approval, to express our warmest congratulations to the Canadiens hockey club which has once again shown its great superiority and efficiency by defeating the strong American team.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

The hon. minister said yesterday that he was giving his attention to all the representations made by hon. members from Montreal concerning the renewal of local initiatives projects in the Montreal area, and especially in Montreal itself. I should like today to follow up the question put to him yesterday by asking him if there have since been any new developments in his department and whether he has come to a further decision about the demands of the many groups that at present benefit from local initiatives projects in Montreal?

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot add to my comments yesterday. The examination of representations continues, but there has been no decision taken yet.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPRESENTATIONS OF PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH  
RESPECTING INCARCERATION OF BENGALISE—  
MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Does the hon. minister intend to take any action about the distressing incidents that have happened in the last few days in Pakistan, in which thousands of Bengalis wishing to be sent back to Bangladesh were arrested in the middle of the night and imprisoned in Islamabad, since when the President of Bangladesh has called upon other nations to register their disapproval?

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we are trying to encourage the settlement of a number of outstanding difficulties among the countries of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. We are doing everything in our power, which of course is not very great, in these matters, but I assure you that our concern is there. This is only one aspect, of course, of a very difficult problem. There is a special emissary coming to Canada—indeed, the Prime Minister saw him yesterday—for the purpose of discussing these questions and others.

● (1140)

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe on a supplementary.

VIET NAM—FINANCIAL SITUATION OF INTERNATIONAL  
COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION—  
GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** I should like to put a supplementary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker.

Is it true that the International Commission of Control and Supervision on the Viet Nam cease-fire lacks financial means to carry on with its mission? If so, does this government intend to increase its financial contribution to this end?

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** It is true, as is reported in the newspapers today, that the International Commission of Control and Supervision is insolvent. This is a very difficult and serious problem for the commission. It arises out of the failure to agree upon a budget for the forthcoming period. We have requested the parties to the peace agreement to make another advance that will enable the commission to continue its operations. In the meantime, I fully expect that we may have to provide funds that should have come out of the commission itself in order to feed our own contingent. But we are not taking on any other responsibilities.

\* \* \*

## PENSIONS

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF CEILING ON ESCALATION OF  
PENSIONS OF RETIRED PUBLIC SERVANTS, ROYAL  
CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE AND ARMED FORCES  
PERSONNEL

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. Now that the government has committed itself to the removal of the 2 per cent ceiling from the annual escalation of pensions paid under the Canada Pension Plan, will the President of the Treasury Board take the necessary action so that the 2 per cent ceiling can be removed from the annual escalation of pensions paid to retired public servants and to retired RCMP and armed forces personnel?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member and the House know, the government is very sympathetic to this proposal but has stated on previous occasions the notion or idea that the change in the escalation rates, both in the Canada Pension Plan and the Superannuation Act should be conterminous.