

House when a truly national policy will be launched so that employment in that industry will not be protected only but also encouraged?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we do have a textile policy right now which I think has served Canada well over the years. At the present time, however, there are difficulties as a result of low-cost imports. We have taken measures to deal with those low-cost imports, but there may be additional measures that will have to be taken. In light of that, we are reviewing the textile policy, and I would hope later this year we will receive a report.

Mr. Diefenbaker: By that time the textile industry will have gone.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Is the minister aware that the Prime Minister wrote to a mayor in the St. Maurice region assuring him that the textile industry would be protected and that an overall policy would soon be introduced in Parliament? Can the minister tell us whether he is aware of the statement made by the Prime Minister or the stand he took, and if so, when this will be done?

[English]

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that the policy is under review. The government is not yet in a position to make any decision and will not be for several months, but there is very active consideration going on at the present time.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

WITHDRAWAL OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FROM NATIVES IN MANITOBA—REQUEST FOR REVIEW AND REPORT

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago I asked the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether he was aware of the directive from his department withdrawing vocational rehabilitation services from the treaty Indians in the province of Manitoba. He indicated at that time he was going to investigate the matter and report at a later date. Is he ready with his information on that subject now?

An hon. Member: I hope so.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the withdrawal of the provincial services provided by the Manitoba Vocational Rehabilitation Services has not been abrupt, as I think was suggested, but has been gradual. It will be done on a gradual phase-out basis which I am told has been discussed and agreed upon.

Oral Questions

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the directive indicated June 30 was the termination date, and that this program is heavily funded by the Canada Assistance Plan and has been of great benefit to the treaty Indians in the province of Manitoba, and in view of the fact it is planned to transfer responsibilities to Canadian Manpower Centres which do not have the counselling resources to handle this program, will the minister review the matter further to make certain that this outstanding and beneficial service is not terminated on June 30 as that directive from his department indicated?

Mr. Buchanan: I have not yet had the report, Mr. Speaker, but it is my understanding there was a meeting last Friday between our regional director and the Canada Manpower Centre officials in Brandon, and that in addition to the regular manpower staff there are nine officers employed under the Pathfinder Outreach Program. It is felt that among them they will be able to accommodate the case load.

● (1440)

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Is the minister aware that the man in charge of the Pathfinder Program in the western Manitoba region has recently been fired by that organization?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York-Sunbury.

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ENERGY

FUNDY TIDAL POWER PROJECT—INQUIRY AS TO COMMENCEMENT OF STUDIES

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Can the minister tell us whether any of the five phased Fundy tidal power studies announced last November have commenced and if not can he tell us when the first study will commence?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice if the hon. gentleman does not mind because I am not sure whether or not anything has been done this year.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION OF MEASURES TO DEAL WITH VIOLENT CRIMES—SUGGESTION NO DELAY PENDING DEBATE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. I wonder whether the minister can tell us if he is in any better position today, after the federal-provincial conference with the law officials in Victoria and in view of the release by Statistics Canada over the weekend concerning the increase in violent crime, especially murder which is