

Order Paper Questions

ment of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on reserves in the province of Alberta as of June 30, are as follows: (a) 1981—187 teachers, (b) 1980—205 teachers, (c) 1979—198 teachers.

Note: The decrease from 205 in 1980 to 187 in 1981 occurred due to a turnover of the school operation to the Saddle Lake Band. The department reduced its staff by 18 person-years to accommodate the band's needs.

2. Ninety-one teachers on staff in 1979 were still on staff as of June 30, 1981.

3. Maximum number of teachers allocated on reserves are established by ratio. One classroom teacher for every 18 students, kindergarten, grades one to twelve, plus two teacher aides for every five teaching positions, K-4 to grade three. For kindergarten grades, one teacher is allowed for every 15 students attending on a one-half day basis. As of March 12, 1982, calculations are based on February, 1982 student enrolment. The instructional requirement projected for September, 1982 is 198 teachers plus 33.5 teacher aides equalling a total of 231.5 instructional staff. This allocation has been approved. It is difficult to maintain the number of staff at the allocated level due to resignations and other factors.

4. Teachers are hired through the Public Service Commission in the same manner as other federal civil servants. Contracts are therefore not required.

5. Actual turnover of teachers is estimated to be approximately 40 per cent.

6. Department teachers are required to follow the Alberta provincial curriculum.

7. The department does not provide a special curriculum, however, our schools add cultural material by expanding social studies programs to include native history, culture and language. Special services are purchased through tuition agreements with the provincial schools, i.e., (a) School for the deaf, (b) Schools for the mentally retarded, etc. National Health and Welfare visit our schools for medical and dental work including hearing and sight tests.

[English]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary secretary have been answered.

Mr. Smith: I would ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Stevens: I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. Once again I feel it necessary to ask the parliamentary secretary why question No. 2,042, which was put on the Order Paper on January 29, not this year but last year, has not yet been answered.

Mr. Smith: Madam Speaker, my hon. friend will be pleased to know that I have in fact made inquiries with regard to the preparation of an answer to this question. Information is required from a number of different sources. Much of that information has arrived, but a few of the sources have not yet provided information. I hope to be in receipt of it before too

long and I will continue my efforts to satisfy the hon. member with an answer as soon as possible.

Madam Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1971 (NO. 2)

AMENDMENT RESPECTING EXTENSION OF QUALIFYING PERIOD

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration) moved that Bill C-114, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971 (No. 2), be read the second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to Committee of the Whole.

He said: Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to hon. members of the House for their courtesy in permitting this bill to be considered during this one day sitting. I appreciate the fact that they are prepared to give up what would perhaps otherwise be a Friday afternoon in their ridings to debate what is a very important measure for a large number of Canadians.

Mr. Nielsen: You owe us one.

● (1210)

Mr. Axworthy: I am always prepared to pay my debts. The provisions of this bill are very simple. In fact, there is only one. It is to extend for a further year the present variable entrance requirements under the Unemployment Insurance Act. The importance of this measure is that, without this provision to extend the variable entrance requirements, a large number of Canadians would require a minimum of 14 weeks' eligibility in order to claim unemployment insurance benefits.

In this time when we are facing very serious levels of unemployment and having to cope with major strains upon the unemployment insurance system, it would obviously be very unwise to try to bring about any destabilizing forces by undertaking major changes to the act. Therefore, we are asking the permission of the House to extend for one further year the extension provisions which would otherwise come to an end on June 4, so that we can offer to Canadians who unfortunately require support and assistance under the Unemployment Insurance Act some stability which will be maintained in present circumstances during this trying period.

It is important at this time to pay tribute to our forefathers and predecessors in this House who in 1940 had the wisdom and foresight to establish the unemployment insurance system. We are now experiencing perhaps the most significant test of that system because we are going through a very serious period of recession. It is a credit to this House in terms of its history