

Question of Privilege—Mr. Bouchard

There has been up to this point some 12,000 people returned to status. We hope to be able to continue that. However, it is an important matter and sometimes there is research necessary which is very important with respect to a return to status.

REINSTATEMENT PROCESS—REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, since in the first year of reinstatement only one in five applicants have been reinstated, would the Minister advise the House what additional resources he is prepared to grant both to his Department and to the native organizations which are doing so much of the groundwork so that the reinstatement process can be speeded up?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member is aware, there is a process for creating band membership. There is money to flow to those bands once they have established a membership code to allow them to continue to monitor and maintain that membership. I can assure the Hon. Member that the Department, my officials and myself are doing everything we can to ensure the return of those people to accurate status and that there is nothing which would jeopardize the original status.

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● (1500)

LABOUR RELATIONS

WEST COAST PORTS LOCK-OUT

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. I am pleased the Minister has acted on behalf of prairie farmers. However, will he tell us how soon he will give direction to the Port Authority and the unions to act on behalf of Commissioner Larson's recommendations? The port is shut down, which is a very valuable tool to the economy of western Canada and to all of Canada.

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, considering the requests I have just made today, I will at least wait until I receive an answer, and act accordingly.

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[Translation]

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

DETAILS REGARDING INCOMPLETE ANSWER

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct an answer I gave earlier to the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre).

Regarding the 38 per cent figure referring to persons who at some time during the year 1984 drew unemployment insurance, this of course applies to Port-Cartier only. And it supports what I was telling the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps), namely that it is quite considerable. So the 38 per cent does not apply to the whole riding of Manicouagan but only to the town of Port-Cartier.

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[English]

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, yesterday during the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne the House Leader for the Official Opposition raised a question of privilege. I would like to submit that his question of privilege fails on three brief grounds.

First, the point was raised well after Question Period in the middle of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, some two hours later. Second, the telex was raised by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) in response to a question from the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker) and not the House Leader. Third, the question of privilege was raised as a result of a reporter allegedly being refused a copy of the telex by the Prime Minister's Office and not a Member of Parliament.

The Prime Minister was reluctant as a matter of courtesy to release the telex without permission from the sender with respect to the entire message. However, immediately the matter was raised by the reporter, inquiries were made. I understand that this morning discussions were finalized between the Prime Minister's Office and the office of the Premier of Prince Edward Island. We are pleased at this time to table the said telex on behalf of the Government.

Mr. Speaker: I think all Members of the House would join with me in congratulating Members for having resolved this question of privilege, as it started out, and which I think probably was a point of order, in the very civilized way in which it has been resolved.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. Collins for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her Speech at the opening of the Session; and of the amendment of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p. 44).