

Inquiries of the Ministry

ago I asked the minister whether, in view of the fact that housing starts in Saskatchewan have dropped from 420 a year ago to 18 this year, advances have been made in the public works program—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am wondering whether this is a supplementary question. Perhaps the hon. member might continue, but if the question is not a supplementary the Chair would normally give the floor to the hon. member for Shefford.

Mr. Korchinski: If Your Honour will allow me to follow through with the question you will realize that it is very much a supplementary as it is related directly to the unemployment problem. Has the minister a report to make to the House indicating what projects have been advanced, as he indicated would be done, so that the unemployment problem may be solved? Could he also indicate at this time whether, in view of the fact that many people have moved from Saskatchewan to places like Toronto and Edmonton, such cities will fall into a special category?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is perhaps too long, but now that he has asked it the minister might wish to reply briefly. However, I do not think he should make a general statement at this time.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister is quite prepared to answer.

Mr. Speaker: I have indicated to the minister that he should reply but I have invited him not to make a statement at this time.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): We are putting together a number of projects from a number of departments within the government, some of the work being anticipatory. We expect to make an announcement very shortly with regard to work that we can do in Saskatchewan.

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Given the government's monetary and fiscal policies, is the Prime Minister happy with the current rate of unemployment or is he disappointed that it has not risen further?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think a question seeking to ascertain the degree of the Prime Minister's happiness or disappointment can be accepted at this time.

An hon. Member: This is his day to sulk.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Does he not consider that unemployment has reached such sufficient degree of seriousness that he should treat it with something better than sly smiles and wisecracks, the way he does in this House every day as if he cared nothing for the unemployed people of this country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE—SUMMER
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM
FOR STUDENTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the unemployment statistics released today and the trouble which will be faced by students in finding summer employment, can the minister assure the House he will be making a statement on motions before the Easter recess regarding student and youth unemployment?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I cannot give an assurance that I will make a statement but I can assure the House we will be getting jobs for students this summer and hope to do as well as last summer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I notice there are five or six hon. members who are seeking to ask further supplementary questions. I would like to suggest that we might give a few other hon. members an opportunity to ask their questions, following which we will return to this very important and urgent problem. I think that in fairness we should now recognize the hon. member for Shefford.

[*Translation*]

POST OFFICE

MONTREAL POSTAL DISPUTE—STEPS TAKEN
BY INQUIRY COMMISSIONER

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, as the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications is not in the House, I shall direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Since the appointment of the commissioner of inquiry to solve the postal dispute in Montreal, does the Prime Minister believe that the action taken by this investigator will lead to an early settlement of this dispute?