

directive to customs officials telling them to enforce regulations with considerable severity in connection with auto parts shipments? If so, can the minister inform the House whether this has happened?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I said yesterday in the committee on my estimates, and I repeat it today, even more emphatically because the department has had occasion to check further, that there is no appearance of United States customs officers concentrating their attention, or an unwillingness to be friendly, on the Canadian auto parts exporters. The tightening up of customs implementation in the United States is not recent; it goes back at least two years. It is not concentrated on Canada. It is widely applied to all countries of the world. It is not concentrated on the automobile sector and, within that sector, it is not concentrated upon automobile parts. In other words, it is general. It applies to all countries and sectors and not to Canadian auto parts makers in particular.

Mr. Nesbitt: Has the minister made any specific representations to the United States government concerning this matter? Also, since I have an uneasy feeling that the minister has not exactly answered my original question, may I ask him to tell us what steps he has taken to ascertain that there has been no singling out of the auto parts industry in this regard?

Mr. Pepin: I thought I was emphatic enough. We gathered all the information we could get from all sources. We consulted with a number of people and the result of our inquiry is the one I have indicated. It is very difficult to ask somebody to go to confession unless it can be demonstrated that he has sinned.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—POSSIBLE INCREASE IN FUNDS—FURTHER PROGRAM AFTER MAY 31

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration with regard to LIP. The question arises out of reports suggesting that the provision of half a billion dollars more is contemplated for this manpower program. I want to ask the minister whether the government is considering increasing expenditures under this manpower program by half a billion dollars and also whether the House will be given an evaluation of LIP in the next day or two explaining what has been happening with regard to it?

• (1450)

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, consideration is always being given to the manpower programs but not in the terms that have been expressed to us by the hon. member.

Inquiries of the Ministry

With respect to the second part of the question, we do hope to publish quite soon, hopefully before the end of this month, a list of all projects, numbers employed and the funding of each project. This could form the basis for the beginning of an evaluation by hon. members themselves.

Mr. Lewis: In view of the announcement made earlier with regard to another program, may I ask the acting minister whether thought is being given to announcing a program beyond May 31 to deal with the unemployment of those people who are not now or do not admit to being young? Is any plan being worked out to continue a worthwhile program beyond May 31 in view of the fact that unemployment will not be reduced to adequate levels—no one suggests it will—within the next two or three months?

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer in language precise enough to satisfy the hon. member opposite, but I can say that the employment picture following May 31 is very much the government's preoccupation. Certainly we know of plans for student employment and we do expect that in the period beginning last month and extending into June well over 700,000 new jobs will be created by the economy's own expansion. We are watching very carefully the phasing out of the special employment programs in relation to the total economic picture. We have the matter very much under consideration, though perhaps not in the precise manner referred to by the hon. gentleman. He will have to wait till later for a better answer.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, the point of my question—and I say this only to make my supplementary clear—was whether an announcement would be made in time. May I therefore ask the minister whether I am to understand that this consideration is a continuous exercise and that we may expect an announcement of a plan long before May 31 so that the necessary preparations, arrangements and consultations can take place?

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Speaker, I do want to assure the hon. member that if there is such a plan I am sure we will make every effort to announce it sufficiently in advance of its implementation to enable everyone to get into position.

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PENITENTIARIES

SUGGESTED PLACING OF INMATES IN HOMES OF OLDER PEOPLE FOR PURPOSE OF REHABILITATION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General who, in the city of Edmonton within the past two days, made an announcement concerning a plan of his department, under the head of rehabilitation of prisoners in penitentiaries, to place them in the homes of older people across Canada. In consequence of that announcement, which should have been made in the House rather than outside, consternation has come into the hearts of many of our old people.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!