

*Oral Questions*

**MANPOWER**

**ALLEGED AWARDING OF CONTRACTS TO TWO TORONTO PRIVATE PLACEMENT COMPANIES TO HIRE EMPLOYEES FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the high unemployment rate and in view of the fact that the federal Department of Supply and Services recently awarded two contracts to two private placement companies in Toronto to hire employees for the federal government, may I ask the minister why it was necessary to spend taxpayers' dollars on such a venture and, second, why these people were not sought through the manpower offices which come under his direction?

● (1500)

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will take note of the hon. member's representations and look into them. I would be surprised to find that the facts are exactly as stated, but I will dig into them.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

**QUEBEC—POSSIBILITY OF CONFERENCE WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ON PROSPECTS**

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the recent unemployment figures, particularly affecting the maritime provinces and Quebec, is the government prepared, following the Quebec election, to hold a Quebec-Ottawa conference on Quebec economic outlook and more precisely on the future of young people on the labour market?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** I will take into consideration the hon. member's representation. I must say that I am in almost constant communication with my Quebec counterpart and that we have projected a federal-provincial meeting for early next year.

**Mr. Wagner:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. At the time of the federal-provincial conference after October 29, would the government be prepared to have the opposition parties, both federal and provincial and the intermediate bodies directly involved, participating in this conference?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, one of the difficulties is that we have never been able to obtain the provincial governments' consent.

\* \* \*

[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**POSSIBLE CHANGE IN POLICY ON FOREIGN AID—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Yesterday the

[Mr. Stanfield.]

minister indicated he had pledged on behalf of Canada some \$274.5 million to the World Bank Development Fund. In view of the fact the total of Canada's cash foreign aid was some \$475 million last year, will the minister or his colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, indicate if there is a shift in the policy of Canada with regard to foreign aid and the concentration will now be more on a general fund rather than Canada deciding for itself which individual countries it will assist?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, this amount of \$274.5 million for the replenishment of the International Development Association under the World Bank is payable over three years. Our proportion is 6.1 per cent of the total replenishment of \$4.5 billion. Our contribution over the past three years was 6.26 per cent, so there is virtually no change in our contribution.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Is there a change of policy so that a greater proportion of Canada's foreign aid will be concentrated toward a general agency such as the World Bank Development Fund rather than Canada dealing with countries individually on a one-to-one basis?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, possibly I might be given an opportunity to comment on this question. For a number of years Canada has had a policy of increasing the proportion of its aid to international organizations with a target in mind of about 25 per cent. The decision that was made in Nairobi on the contribution to the IDA was in line with that target.

\* \* \*

**TRANSPORT**

**THUNDER BAY—EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT OF SLOW MOVEMENT OF GRAIN CARS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. It has to do with the fact that the Thunder Bay area reports a low movement of grain to elevators there. There are 5,000 cars arriving weekly whereas the elevators could easily handle 9,000 cars. As a result of the reduction in the number that could be handled there have been layoffs. In view of the fact the season for shipment out of Thunder Bay continues only through November and part of December, will the minister at once get in touch with the railway companies and impress on them the necessity of supplying the necessary cars so there will be full employment at Thunder Bay and at the same time western wheat will be moving to market?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will immediately inquire into this situation and see whether something can be done at this time. I recognize it is late in the season and that we should do our utmost to have full employment and ship the grain.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** In order that we will have full information, will the minister get in touch with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who received full information