

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The question is argumentative.

[Translation]

### IMMIGRATION

#### FURTHER REQUESTS FOR ENTRY OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the future minister of manpower?

The other day I asked the minister if he had received other requests for imported labour. Can he tell us now if other provinces have made similar requests for help at harvest time?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, as far as I can remember two provinces have requested help to pick the fruit and vegetable crops; I think they are British Columbia and Alberta.

[English]

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I have a supplementary question. Will the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration make sure that this year the officials of his department see to it that workers coming into Canada from other countries are not sent out of the country before they complete their jobs, as has been the case on numerous occasions in the past?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure the minister has made note of the hon. member's representations.

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### REPORTED STATEMENT BY MINES MINISTER RESPECTING COAL MINERS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys regarding a statement he made to the effect that 6,500 Nova Scotia coal miners are to be replaced by automation as the result of a switch from the use of coal to electricity and atomic energy. Can the minister inform this house when these miners will have to be transferred from their present employment, as he has suggested, and indicate his basis for this statement?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** The newspaper article to which the hon. member is apparently

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referring indicates that I made reference to 65,000 miners. The number involved is actually 6,500. Obviously the reporter who wrote that article was not fully attuned to the intricacies of this problem. What I did say related to an assessment of the difficulties miners are experiencing, particularly those in Cape Breton. I also said that coal was not playing the role in today's economy it played in the nineteenth century. I merely analysed the problem without expressing any views as to what might be done in respect of the situation in Cape Breton. I could not do that, because that would involve government policy and we are not ready to make an announcement as yet.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** I have a supplementary question. In view of the fact the minister is quoted as having said these miners will have to be transferred to other employment, I should like to know whether he considers that a statement of that magnitude should be announced at a meeting of the Hull Jaycees before such information is made available to members of the House of Commons, the people of Nova Scotia and the miners who will be affected by such a decision.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe the discussion is now becoming an argument between the hon. member and the minister.

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. In view of his statement about the role being played by coal in today's economy, and in view of the fact that the Dominion Coal Board acts in an advisory capacity to the minister, will he consider what that board has to say about the use of coal at the present time and in the future, in order that he can bring himself up to date on this subject?

**Mr. Pepin:** Both the Minister of Finance and myself have had conversations with Dosco, if that is what the hon. member is suggesting. We have done so as part of the process of considering everything that can be said by anybody on the subject.

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys?

Is the minister taking similar steps concerning miners in the gold mines of north-west Quebec? Is he now considering the