

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has asked a question and the minister has given a reply. The Chair has to exercise judgment, and when an hon. member asks a minister to indicate whether he believes such and such, obviously he is asking for an expression of opinion. I do not want to prevent the minister from replying. Taking all the circumstances into account, it might perhaps be easier to allow the minister to make a brief reply to the hon. member for Simcoe North.

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, it is precisely because we do believe there is a shortage of medical and health manpower that we formed the federal-provincial task force on health costs. That task force recommended the establishment of all sorts of new categories of para-medical personnel to relieve members of the medical profession of a tremendous amount of routine work which does not require that sophisticated type of education.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I suggest that the minister is just pussyfooting around and is not answering the question. This is the same type of answer the House has been getting for the last three years instead of action.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**LOAN PROGRAM TO CREATE JOBS—INFORMATION ON UNEMPLOYMENT BASIS AND METHOD OF CALCULATION FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer again to the program designed to create jobs this winter in order to obtain certain information from the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. When we were given information regarding the \$160 million forgivable loan program to create work this winter we were given a breakdown as to provinces and amounts, and a statement was made to the effect that it was based on over 4 per cent unemployment. I should like to ask whichever minister has the information on what date the over 4 per cent unemployment figure was taken, and perhaps the minister could also table the precise method by which these allocations were calculated?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I would be very pleased to do that, Mr. Speaker. The figure was based on regional unemployment last winter, adjusted on the basis of what has happened since that time. I would be very pleased to table the information my hon. friend has requested.

ENFORCEMENT OF LIMITS ON TRAINING PERIODS IN ON THE JOB PROGRAM

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I note that in respect of the on the job training program there is a limit for training, if I remember correctly, between a minimum of three months and a maximum of 12 months. Will these limits be rigidly

enforced or will it be possible for people who may not require as much as three months' training in a given area of upgrading, or those who may require 13 months or 15 months instead of 12 months—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me the hon. member is asking a rather extended supplementary question. As I have said from day to day, we are running short of time. Supplementary questions should be limited as much as possible.

Mr. Lewis: Now that the minister has my meaning perhaps I might briefly, rephrase the question. Will the time limit for training be rigidly enforced, or will training be completed with assistance from this fund once a trainee has started on the job?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I should not want to rule out the possibility of exceptional cases being dealt with in exceptional ways, but the ordinary pattern is expected to fall well within these limits. From an administrative point of view it is desirable to make the available money apply to training programs which lie within certain limits, and these are the limits which have been chosen at this point in time.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE**PRESENTATION OF LEGISLATION RESPECTING ABORTION**

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

Is he now drafting a bill for the legalization of abortion?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I believe, as the Prime Minister has said on many occasions, that there will be a debate in the House on this sensitive subject.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CANADIAN-SOVIET COMMUNIQUÉ—EFFECT OF EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION ON DEFENCE-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNITED STATES**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister perhaps I should direct my question to the Minister of National Defence. It relates to the Canadian-Soviet communiqué released the other day in which there are at least six different references to an increase in the level of the exchange of scientific and technological information. Is the minister satisfied that such an extended level of exchange of this type of information will not impair our capacity to remain within the defence-sharing arrangement with the United States?