

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

result of the suggestion or proposition advanced on December 20 in this House that municipalities serve, in effect, as credit agencies when UIC payments are delayed?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** As I mentioned in the House, Mr. Speaker, commencing on January 1, and in conformity with the new Unemployment Insurance Act, in cases of hardship resulting not necessarily from delay of unemployment insurance payments but even resulting from the legitimate four week period, an unemployed person can assign the rights to that unemployment insurance cheque to a local welfare agency and receive assistance.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are running short of time. Perhaps we might try to have a few more questions before calling orders of the day. Hon. members will appreciate that even the business before us comes under a time allocation order of the House. Before we call orders of the day, we can have a few more questions without supplementaries.

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**YOUTH****OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—DECISION ON PROGRAM FOR COMING YEAR**

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Willington):** My question is directed to the Secretary of State. Could the hon. gentleman indicate, before the House rises for the long recess, whether the government has yet taken a position or made a decision on the Opportunities for Youth program for the coming spring and summer?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I had stated that the government decisions would be taken soon enough to make an announcement at the latest on January 15. I am pleased to say to the hon. member that the program will be announced on or before January 15.

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[English]

**PENSIONS****POSSIBLE LOWERING OF RETIREMENT AGE TO AID UNEMPLOYED**

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the over 200,000 unemployed under the age of 25, is the government considering legislation to facilitate voluntary early retirement for Canadian wage and salary earners through a contributory plan?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, this whole area of early retirement was broached in the government's white paper on income security as a possible thrust for the future, but the government has nothing specific to announce in that particular area at the present time.

[Mr. MacKay.]

**STATISTICS CANADA****ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ENGLISH SPEAKING EMPLOYEES—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

**Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce but in his absence I shall direct it to his parliamentary secretary. Last Thursday the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce stated that he would study alleged abuses of the function of the Official Languages Act in Statistics Canada. Has this study been undertaken and is a statement on the situation going to be made to the House this week?

**Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the study has been completed and I can report to hon. members that there is no evidence of any discrimination. If the hon. member has more specific instances that he would like to give us we would be very happy to investigate them.

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**SPORTS****ALLEGED DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF ACTIONS OF MR. AHEARNE—REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION**

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and concerns youth in sport. In view of the dictatorial attitude of Mr. Bunny Ahearne of the International Hockey Federation and the far-reaching control he has, even to children of nine and ten years of age playing minor hockey, and his denial of their free participation in sports, would the minister take the initiative in bringing to the attention of the sports bodies concerned the detrimental effect that Mr. Ahearne's actions are having on our youth with a view to effecting his resignation?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, many of the organizations to which the hon. member refers have their own well-known views about Mr. Ahearne and nothing I could say would contribute very much.

[Later:]

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** My question is supplementary and refers to the whole attitude toward hockey in Canada. I would ask the minister if he would try to sharpen his skates, take up his hockey stick, and do a little stick-handling so that we can get out of the international penalty box in time for the 1976 olympics?

**Mr. Munro:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member has any techniques to handle Mr. Ahearne, I would be pleased to listen to them.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period but by consent perhaps the hon. member for Assiniboia might ask a question, and then the hon. member for Edmonton Centre.