

Oral Questions

been made by a department such as that of the Solicitor General?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the second part of the hon. member's question, individuals do not receive landed immigrant status. Representations may very well be made by departments. As I have indicated, we accommodate not only the office of the Solicitor General but hon. members opposite with ministerial permits. There has been no blanket policy or, for that matter, individual policy to indicate that landed immigrant status will be granted if a particular operation is performed. That commitment has not been made by my department. If it has been made by others, it was done without the knowledge of my department and certainly without its concurrence.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSIONREQUEST AREAS OF SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL ONTARIO
QUALIFY FOR DREE ASSISTANCE

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and follows questions posed by my colleagues several days ago in the House. On a number of occasions I have approached the minister's department asking that regions of southern and central Ontario be considered for DREE eligibility. In light of increased unemployment which indicates that these areas are every bit as needy as some other regions favoured by his department, is the minister now prepared to give my request serious consideration?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I give very serious consideration to representations made by hon. members on problems which they encounter in their own region but there are of course limits which I must respect. One must remember that I come across problems too, and I would like to say also to the hon. member and to those from this part of Ontario who made representations to ministers that we are currently negotiating amendments to existing agreements with the government of Ontario. So it is possible that within the next few days we will be able to announce that progress has been made which will allow us to help the regions mentioned by the hon. member.

[English]

Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, on February 8, 1978, approximately five weeks ago, I wrote the minister suggesting that we get together to discuss this matter personally, as it affects my riding. I have not yet received a reply to that request. I ask the minister if he will consider discussing this important matter with me, so that I can present the case for the people of my region.

[Mr. Epp.]

Mr. Lessard: Mr. Speaker, I can inform the hon. member that he will receive a reply, because I signed the answer to his letter a couple of days ago.

An hon. Member: It is in the mail.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMYINCLUSION IN BUDGET OF INCENTIVES FOR VOLUNTARY
WORK-SHARING

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In spite of the success we have had in creating jobs in this country over the years—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McRae:—by far the best of any other country in the OECD, there are still one million people unemployed. Given the high cost of creating jobs, is the minister giving consideration in a future budget to incentives for voluntary work-sharing and pairing so as to free-up a certain number of jobs?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will take the representation of the hon. member into consideration. When we have a budget, we will see if we can do something along those lines.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSIONSUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF FERROSILICON PLANT IN
RIMOUSKI, QUEBEC

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Could the minister tell the House whether there were some new developments in the case concerning the establishment of the ferrosilicon plant in Rimouski?

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, not as far as I know as I checked the matter not long ago and there was no development in connection with that case.

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question. Considering the minister's reply, could he tell the House whether he expects an early settlement of the matter?

Mr. Lessard: Mr. Speaker, not at the rate at which the case is evolving. I would be quite surprised if a decision was taken during the next few months.