

Inquiries of the Ministry

and I have nothing further to say at the moment. Discussions were initiated between the two governments and the parties concerned have reached no final decision.

[English]

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Having regard to the fact that both the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Quebec have indicated that troops went into Quebec at the request of the Quebec government, and bearing in mind the provisions of part I of the National Defence Act, has any attempt been made under the War Measures Act or other authority by the government to vary the incidence of the total cost falling upon the province of Quebec, or will the government introduce legislation to vary the provisions of the National Defence Act to that effect?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): The hon. member is correct in saying this involves the National Defence Act rather than the War Measures Act. It will be my intention to seek on behalf of the Department of National Defence reimbursement of out of pocket expenses incurred by participating in the Quebec events from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Then it will be for the government to discuss with the province of Quebec the question of its share of the cost.

Mr. Baldwin: I was about to address a question to the Minister of Justice but he is not here. The Prime Minister would probably only befuddle the issue—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Fuddle-duddle!

Mr. Hees: There he goes again.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baldwin: I should like to ask the Acting Minister of Justice whether he has been requested to obtain an opinion from the law officers of the Crown as to whether or not there can be any change in the law which now provides that the full cost will fall upon the province of Quebec?

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): This is a very important question and one which I shall draw to the attention of the minister.

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[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LAY-OFF OF EMPLOYEES BY CHEMCELL LIMITED—
REQUEST BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT FOR
ASSISTANCE

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question to the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Since Chemcell Limited has announced the closing of its chemical plants in Edmonton and Two Hills, Alberta, would the minister say whether the government is considering the establishment of one or more special programs to alleviate the situation in this province? Would he also say whether the government of Canada has received a request from the Province of Alberta or whether there have been any discussions with this government in order to deal with the loss of jobs by all the specialists working for this company?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, there have been no contacts between my department and the government of Alberta with respect to those closings.

As to the employees affected by them, they will benefit from the regular programs of the department and, more important, from those of the Department of Manpower and Immigration. I know of no other.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. minister could indicate how retraining people who have doctorates in chemistry will solve the problem.

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[English]

HEALTH

ASSISTANCE TO MEDICAL PROFESSION IN CONTROLLING
MEMBERS ALLEGEDLY EXPLOITING MEDICARE
PROGRAMS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the concern expressed by the Canadian Medical Association as to the inability of the profession to discipline or to control individual members who are exploiting medicare programs, can the minister say whether the government will assist the profession in this important matter?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, that is a very valid observation and I think the government would be prepared to consider it. The hon. member may know that about a year and a half ago we did meet with the Canadian Medical Association in an endeavour to approach the profession throughout Canada to limit fee increases, and that was successful for a short time. Perhaps this new effort will have a similar effect; I hope so. I would also remind the hon. member that the provinces have a good deal to do with this matter in terms of setting fee structures.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the statement on behalf of the Canadian Medical Association that it would be helpful to have full information concerning fees collected by doctors on a national basis, will the government consider doing what it can to see that this information is provided?

Mr. Munro: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I did not hear the concluding words of the hon. member's question.