

*Oral Questions*

try indicates a dramatic increase in the rate of rejection by employers of people referred by Canada Manpower. Has the minister discussed this very serious matter with his provincial counterparts, and have any conclusions been reached in order to reverse this trend, either by way of federal initiative or of provincial-federal initiative?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** We have not precisely discussed that as an agenda item with the Ontario government, but general discussions are under way by my officials and the Ontario government and I am awaiting their conclusion before any decision is reached.

**Mr. Alexander:** The same reports indicate that the failure to utilize women, youth and minorities is the reason for the high number of job vacancies. I ask the minister: are programs being developed for the early introduction of measures to assist these employables and meet the needs of employers?

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, many such programs have been introduced and others are about to be introduced, not the least of which is the program we hope to launch in final and formal form, namely, Careers Canada—Careers Province, which I hope will be available to young people in particular within the next two or three months. There are other programs to eliminate the job barriers to which the hon. member referred.

• (1150)

**Mr. Alexander:** Does the minister indicate now that we are abandoning the Opportunities for Youth Program and that Careers Canada will be taking its place?

**Mr. Andras:** No such thing, Mr. Speaker, and I really fail to understand how that conclusion could be reached, even on the short notice which the hon. member had. In one case we are talking about Careers Canada—Careers Province as a program to bring together more effectively the private sector's activities on hiring young people and women, whereas Opportunities for Youth is a direct job creation program of the federal government working to a degree in co-operation with the provinces.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE**

**MILK—PROPOSED INDEXING OF SUBSIDY**

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

Following the additional grants announced this morning for industrial milk and considering that the increment will be quickly swallowed by higher production costs, could the minister say whether he is willing to introduce a measure or a production cost adjustment system and when he will do so?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I said that we have finalized the formula and an announcement will be made shortly on a new formula for

[Mr. Alexander.]

supplying industrial milk for Canada. This is something we have been promising for quite some time, and I realize that, but when it is announced, it will be something that no other nation in the world has.

[Translation]

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Since the minister has recently stated in Montreal that a proposition was submitted to the Cabinet to this effect, is he now in a position to announce to the House whether he is in favour of this formula of indexation system with regard to milk production?

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, I told that to the dairy farmers of Canada in the city of Montreal the day before yesterday, and that is our policy.

[Translation]

**INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO REDUCE PRODUCTION COSTS**

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Could he say to the House whether his department or the government will soon propose to take steps to help agricultural producers, especially milk producers, bring down their production costs to make their farms more profitable, without having to continually increase prices?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will check the facts, the industrial milk producers of Canada have been taken care of better than any group of industrial milk producers in the whole world. We have increased prices in the last 18 months by nearly 40 per cent, and no other country has done this. No other country is developing a formula pricing system as we are, and no other country has maintained its production as we have, regardless of what anyone has said. We are serious about maintaining this industry. We are working very closely with the dairy farmers of Canada. We are working very closely with the Dairy Commission to achieve the best policy this country has ever seen. It will encourage producers and provide stability so that they can plan their production and programing for milk production and still give the consumers the cheapest, highest quality product in the world.

[Translation]

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I am afraid the hon. Minister of Agriculture did not get my question right. The point is not whether to increase the prices paid to milk producers, but to find out whether the government had any policy to lower production costs. I thought and I still think that the government had made inquiries in the past into the excessive costs of farm machinery. The same applies to feed grain prices and to the interest rates milk producers must pay for their production. Has the minister or the government elaborated any policy concerning this?