

LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE WITH NON-OPERATING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—
REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF REFERENCE TO
COMMITTEE TO ENABLE WORKERS TO DISCUSS PENSION
PROPOSALS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that the CNR pension plan has not been discussed before the Standing Committee on Transport because no reference has been made to that committee by the House, can he assure hon. members that before action is sought in parliament by the government with regard to the railway labour dispute, the present proposals with regard to pensions for CNR employees will be satisfactory to the workers on the railroad?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give any guarantee as to what will or not be satisfactory to the workers at this stage, whether in the pension area or any other area, although I can assure the hon. member that if it should occur that legislation is required in a dispute of this kind, which we all hope it will not be, there would be ample opportunity to discuss the CNR pension plan.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport, but since he is not in the House perhaps some other member of the cabinet will reply. Can we have some assurance that a reference, such as the CNR annual report or CNR financing, will be made to the Transport Committee so that there will be an opportunity for the workers to appear before that committee with regard to the pensions that are proposed?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Acting Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will bring this representation to the attention of the minister.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS—REQUEST FOR EARLY STATEMENT
OF POLICY

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the ruling on the Indian Act by Mr. Justice Osler of the Supreme court of Ontario, and in view of the increased anxiety and uncertainty that have been created among native people of Canada, will the Prime Minister give the House a definite commitment that the government's long awaited statement on Indian policy, and in particular on aboriginal rights, will be forthcoming before the House recesses?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government intends to make that policy known very soon.

Oral Questions

HEALTH

ALLEGED SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS—REQUEST FOR
ASSURANCE FOREIGN MEDICAL STUDENTS WILL NOT
DISPLACE CANADIANS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the shortage of doctors in Canada, I would like to ask the minister if applicants from outside Canada are being accepted at our Canadian medical schools, and will he assure us that students from outside Canada will not be accepted in place of qualified Canadian boys and girls?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take notice of this question. I will be very pleased to communicate with the hon. member and give him a report.

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IMMIGRATION

CANCELLATION OF MEXICAN AND PORTUGUESE WORK
PERMITS—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION TO SUPPLY
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that local manpower offices, by their own admission cannot supply adequate labour for harvesting in fruit and vegetable areas, will the minister now reconsider the cancellation of Mexican and Portuguese work permits which had been granted in this and other years?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if Canadians are not available, and of course if working conditions that are including but not limited to wages, meet various required labour standards, we will be very keen to look at that situation and grant permits to foreigners who are here. I might say that we have brought in something in excess of 6,000 foreign seasonal workers, on contract, to satisfy these kinds of situations, this year, and I am aware that our manpower offices have been in touch with these employers who are experiencing such difficulties. We will cooperate in these circumstances.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING —REQUEST FOR AID TO
THOSE ON FIXED INCOMES

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Last week the Prime Minister did not answer a question on whether the government would consider some emergency action at least to help those on fixed incomes. In view of reports that increases in old age pensions accelerated a general round of rental increases in major cities, and have left many of the poorest on pensions almost no better prepared to face increasing prices than