

Oral Questions

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—PERCENTAGE OF APPLICATIONS REFUSED FOR LACK OF FUNDS—PROVISION OF REASONS TO APPLICANTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the minister. Is the minister in a position to tell the House what percentage of the applications now received will have to be turned down because of lack of funds? Also, in respect of those that are turned down can he assure us that the applicants will receive word concerning the reason their projects were not accepted?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we will do our best to advise all applicants whose applications are not going to be approved. We will first advise the sponsors involved in projects where approvals are going to be forthcoming. In fact, we are doing this by telephone now because the contracts have been negotiated and the formalities will have to follow. As to the percentage of applications that will not be granted approval, at the present time I cannot give an accurate figure but I think we have on hand applications which could amount to in excess of \$400 million whereas the total applied to LIP is about \$165 million.

INQUIRY AS TO LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, would the minister advise the House, in view of the fact that so many local initiative applications will not be approved, whether he intends to announce a program to supplement LIP called the local improvement assistance program?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): It has been leaked to the press through sources I cannot yet identify that there is some consideration being given to such a program. When and if such a program has been finalized I will be happy to advise the House.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

CLOSING OF CIP PLANT IN TEMISCAMING—APPLICATION BY TEMBEC TO TAKE OVER MILL AND FOR SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, assuming that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion has recovered from his stirring, if not informative, performance last night, may I ask him whether he is aware of the application by TEMBEC, the community group in Temiscaming which is seeking to take over the CIP mill that was closed down, the application for designation as a special area and for a grant from DREE, an application that was made some weeks ago? Can he inform the House whether he is aware of the application and its status now?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): The status is that it is still being examined

[Mr. Andras.]

but I have a wire among my papers which arrived today asking for an appointment. This was also supported by the hon. member for Témiscamingue, the leader of the Social Credit party. I have agreed to meet them. It is simply a question of whether it will be tomorrow or on Friday. We will discuss the whole matter in detail at that time.

Mr. Lewis: I have a very short supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate briefly whether there are any difficulties in the road to making the grant and enabling this community group to continue the plant and the employment that would be available?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are considerable difficulties. It would take too long to list all of them. Pollution happens to be one. There is a very serious and costly potential pollution problem. There is also some question of the viability of the project. This is why I would like to obtain more figures from those promoting this venture.

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[Translation]

PENITENTIARIES

INMATES' SUICIDES AND DRUG TRAFFIC—REQUEST FOR REPORT BY MINISTER

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the hon. Solicitor General.

Is he in a position to report to the House on the drug affair which would be at the origin of the event that occurred last weekend at the Leclerc Institute?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, we have learned there were, without any doubt, drugs used at the Leclerc institution in the incident which took place last Saturday night, but to this date the authorities have not found how the drugs were brought into the institution. The penitentiary authorities have been working closely with the RCMP during the last year in an effort to stop the traffic in drugs at penitentiaries. Several new methods have been introduced but in this particular instance we do not yet have all the facts.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege affecting the privileges of members of the House and the use or abuse of the question period. I can understand members on the back benches opposite being given an opportunity to make inquiries of the ministry when they cannot obtain answers to questions during the ordinary course of business, but for a parliamentary secretary to be communicating with another department seems to be stretching the abuse a little too far, especially in view of the obviously prepared answer.

[Translation]

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member on a question of privilege.