

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister indicate if it is fair to assume from his reply to the House that a 5.1 per cent annual increase in the cost of living index is a rate of inflation which, to quote the words of the Minister of Finance, "does not unduly erode incomes, particularly fixed incomes of Canadians"?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker; I do not think the hon. member should assume that. The government in recent years obviously has taken budgetary postures which were oriented toward the lowering of the rate of inflation. As has been obvious in our past and present policies, we are not happy with the rate of inflation. What we are saying is that it is not absolutely certain that price and wage controls at this particular time are the best way to stop that rate of inflation.

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#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

AMENDMENTS TO ACT INVOLVING DEFINITION OF "SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT", ETC.—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF DRAFT AND PRESENT REGULATIONS—RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I have one or two questions for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact the amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act which he introduced on Wednesday seem to expand the discretion and powers of the Unemployment Insurance Commission with respect to the definition of certain matters now in the act, would the minister undertake to table the draft regulations being prepared to define "suitable employment" and other matters which are intended to go to the commission so that when we reach the debate on the bill we may know exactly what the intentions are?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will take that suggestion into consideration very sympathetically regardless of whether it will be draft regulations or in another form, but I will wish to convey to hon. members what the ideas in the minds of the commissioners are with regard to that part of the amendments because I realize the tremendous importance of the discretionary powers with regard to applicants. I want hon. members to assist in advising us how the matter should be handled.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the interrogation—that is not too strong a word—of unemployment insurance applicants has already tightened the net and made many innocent unemployed people extremely unhappy, as well as having delayed the obtaining of benefits, has this been done as a result of the changing of rules and regulations and, if so, would the minister table those rules, regulations or directives that may have gone out from the Unemployment Insurance Commission to field officers, or any other information that would help us to know the basis on which action has so far been taken?

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Andras:** I wonder if the hon. member would permit me to take that question as notice, examine it in all its implications and get back to him.

**Mr. Lewis:** In view of the fact that information was given to the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee yesterday and other information has been published that the number of people who abused the old regulations is, relatively, a very small proportion of the total, and in view of the fact that the proposals in Bill C-125 threaten the welfare of all the unemployed and propose powers for the employer that might have serious consequences for workers, may I ask the minister whether he and his advisers would reconsider some of the proposals now contained in Bill C-125 instead of proposing Draconian measures that would undoubtedly hurt many innocent people?

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, I would much prefer to have that whole subject matter debated thoroughly. I would hope that the hon. member's interpretation is based on too quick an analysis of the measures that we are proposing in the amendments to the act. I do not think that at this stage I would be prepared to commit myself to withdrawing them.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Bellechasse. I see four or five front-benchers who have supplementary questions on this matter and I will recognize them subsequently.

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[Translation]

#### MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—ACCELERATION OF STUDY OF PROJECTS

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

In view of the acute unemployment problem and the fact that the government has invited the people to take an active part in the LIP projects, will the minister take the necessary steps to speed up the study of projects submitted so that they might be implemented as soon as possible?

• (1120)

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I have already tried to reply to similar questions by many hon. members. I can advise the hon. member that we are now committed to \$135 million of the total allocation of \$165 million. I might also mention my favourite program's progress. The on-the-job training program is only subscribed to the extent of just under \$13 million and there is a \$50 million allocation for that, approvals for which we would like to see accelerated.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary.