

● (1500)

GUINEA BISSAU—ATTITUDE OF CANADA ON ADMISSION
TO UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs about Guinea Bissau. If the Canadian government is so anxious to be of assistance to independence movements, will the minister tell us what Canada is doing with regard to the initiative of many other nations to bring Guinea Bissau into the United Nations? How have we voted or how do we propose to vote on the admission of Guinea Bissau to the United Nations?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the position we have taken on that question has so far been one of abstention. We are not opposed to the entrance of Guinea Bissau as soon as it is established as an independent country with a government that can discharge its international obligations.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL
FUNDS TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT IN EASTERN QUEBEC

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since the unemployment rate is basically unchanged in the Eastern Townships area, could the minister indicate to the House whether he intends to increase the funds allotted to local initiatives projects at least at the same level as last year's?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, no decision has yet been taken on that matter.

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—POSSIBLE
RECONSIDERATION OF BASIS ON WHICH FUNDS
ALLOCATED

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Does the minister intend to adjust the allotments already made or any proposed future allotments on a more fair basis with regard to opposition members in the House rather than leaning toward Liberal members and cabinet ministers?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the premise of the question. The allocation formula was tabled in the House.

Oral Questions

ENERGY

NAME OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE ON
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM
SUPPLY AND DEMAND—ALLEGED CONTRADICTIONARY
STATEMENTS

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs who has referred to his appearance before the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates. Can the minister explain his statement to that committee on December 3 that he was aware of who his departmental representative is on the technical advisory committee on petroleum supply and demand, bearing in mind his statement in the House on December 4 that he did not know who his departmental representative on that committee was and declined to name him?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure whether it is in order to refer to what went on in committee, but perhaps I can answer the question directly. I am aware of the name of the official. He is a very competent one.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Sharp: But I suggest it is not appropriate to bring the names of officials who are acting on behalf of ministers into contention in the House of Commons. One ought to address one's questions to ministers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for York-Simcoe on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Simcoe North.

ATTENDANCE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE
AT MEETINGS OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF
PETROLEUM SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Can the minister categorically confirm that Mr. A. E. Ritchie, Under Secretary for the Department of External Affairs, is the departmental representative appointed to the technical advisory committee. If so, can he also confirm to the House how many times the representative has attended the technical advisory committee meetings, and in what form did Mr. Ritchie report to the minister?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I could say this is a question that might be placed on the order paper, but I believe it is desirable to clarify the position. Mr. Ritchie did not attend any of the meetings of that particular committee. He designated an expert on Middle East affairs who went to the committee meetings to advise on the Middle East situation.