

help to companies where workers are on legal strike, such as in the case of Wyandotte Chemicals in Scarborough, Ontario and the *Ottawa Journal*, and in view of the fact that with unemployment at close to 8 per cent Manpower can virtually guarantee a steady supply of desperate workers as scabs to companies whose employees are on strike while at the same time denying striking or locked out workers UIC benefits under a guise of neutrality, is the minister now prepared to instruct his Manpower offices across Canada no longer to refer scab workers to plants where legal strikes are in process?

• (1450)

**Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the industrial dispute policy of the department is to maintain a neutral position in these matters and that is what we are endeavouring to do. We indicate to individuals who are looking for jobs that a particular plant is on strike. If they take it on their own initiative to report, that is up to them. They are advised in advance that the plant is on strike.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** A supplementary question. In view of the fact that the UIC is bound by clear legislation not to support workers on strike and maintains this supposedly impartial position, is the minister willing to recognize that Canada Manpower Centres which are supported by the taxpayers of this country from all sectors, are acting in violation of the spirit of impartiality and should review the regulations with a view to changing them?

**Mr. Cullen:** Mr. Speaker, I think the stance we have taken is correct. If an employer, who also pays substantial taxes, wants to make use of the Canada Manpower centres to indicate a job vacancy, we tell the workers that there is a vacancy but that the plant is on strike. If the individual opts not to go he is not penalized.

\* \* \*

## INDUSTRY

### SYDNEY STEEL CORPORATION—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN SECURING ORDERS TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, a question for the Acting Prime Minister which relates to comments made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce on opposition day in the House when he mentioned me in dispatches on several occasions for pursuing the government to get rail order contracts for the Sydney Steel Corporation. Knowing the minister's interest in this matter and his active participation, particularly with reference to the possibility of securing orders from Venezuela, may I ask if he is in a position today to at least give some encouragement to the Cape Breton area? I do not have to explain to the Acting Prime Minister the unemployment situation at the Sydney Steel Corporation plant.

## Oral Questions

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member mentioned, I am aware of the situation at the Sydney Steel plant. Not so long ago, in company with the Minister of Transport, I had a meeting with the then president of the plant with a view to searching for possible ways to augment the order books of the Sydney Steel plant. All I can say by way of encouragement today is that the problem is very much before us and every step we can possibly take will be taken in the short term to assist the steel plant to secure orders.

\* \* \*

## THE ESTIMATES

### ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN 1979—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. When tabling the estimates yesterday he indicated the percentage increase over the previous year. I wonder if he could indicate what he anticipates the increase for the fiscal year 1979 will be—in other words, one further year. He gave that percentage last time when the estimates were introduced.

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as I recall, any such forecasting was done by the Minister of Finance in his budget statement last May and not by the President of the Treasury Board when tabling the estimates. I will check on it but I am not prepared to make such a forecast now.

\* \* \*

## CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

### COMMITMENT GIVEN CORPORATION ON INCREASE IN ESTIMATES—REASON FOR INCREASE

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In answer to a question on January 25 placed on the order paper by the hon. member for Vaudreuil, it was indicated a commitment had been given to the CBC for the coming six years for a 5 per cent real increase in their estimates, plus inflation. Could the minister indicate if that commitment has been given and if so, could he explain why there was a 16 per cent increase in the current estimates with respect to the CBC?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I would want to check the exact formula arrangement with the CBC but I am aware that there is a real growth—a commitment there for a period of time. I believe it to be 5 per cent. Since that is real growth it also probably reflects inflationary growth. I will check on it and make sure my answer is completely correct.