

also tell us why, at a time of announced cutbacks, this costly program should be undertaken at all, considering that so many highly-motivated job-seekers commit themselves to the recruitment process only to be turned down later after a long and expensive process?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the advertising program was, of course, contracted for long before the current cutbacks. Nevertheless, it does give us an opportunity to be highly selective. We have always had a high proportion of people applying for service in our armed forces because of the excellent reputation they have, the excellent training young men and women receive and the excellent career opportunities they have. This means we are able to be more selective.

We are increasing the number of people in the forces over-all. It is true that attrition, at the same time, has been reduced. We will, however, have in future years a need for more people. We want to maintain that interest among them and maintain the high standards which we presently have so that we can be selective and get the very best people.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration: it is supplementary to questions asked earlier. In view of yesterday's press reports, can the minister confirm that all provincial premiers are opposed to changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act, particularly in light of their position at the first ministers' conference last winter? If so, will he table any correspondence he has had with the premiers on this matter.

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the provincial ministers who were present yesterday expressed support for the changes we were making to this program. They did, however, express some concern about some of the sections, and the impact. However, the general thrust of the so-called tightening up of unemployment insurance, I think, won the support of those who were there yesterday. Some ministers were not there: the minister from Saskatchewan was not there. I certainly would not want to speak for his position, because I think the NDP have indicated they do not favour this tightening up procedure.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

INCENTIVES TO REOPEN LINERBOARD MILL AT STEPHENVILLE, NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Oral Questions

In view of the rather unusual interest the government has been demonstrating as of late in the linerboard mill at Stephenville, is the minister prepared to be more specific with the House than he was with the people of Stephenville, when he was there last month, with respect to providing some kind of industrial incentives to prospective entrepreneurs who are prepared to enter into agreement with the government of Newfoundland to open up that plant and provide 500 badly needed jobs in that area?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, of course I could be very specific. However I would like to add that the hon. member must admit we have always been interested in the activity of the linerboard mill at Stephenville and, particularly in the last few months, we have received at least verbal if not written proposals from companies in the pulp and paper sector which might be interested in purchasing these facilities. So we are waiting. Negotiations have now been initiated and I trust that in the next few weeks we will receive firm proposals from at least two companies. Together with the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, we will then be able to determine seriously which one of these proposals would be the most acceptable and most likely to lead to a successful operation for many years to come and by doing so, to protect jobs that will be created again.

[English]

Mr. McGrath: Considering the fact that the minister's department has shown no interest whatsoever, to this point, in the linerboard mill and the full load has been carried by the people and government of Newfoundland, and in view of the fact that as of this day negotiations are going on with the consortium to take over, or at least operate the mill, is the government prepared to make an offer to the government of Newfoundland or the consortium with regard to a specific industrial incentives grant in order to get that mill operational as soon as possible?

Mr. Lessard: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have indicated our interest and sympathy to investigate and support, if justified, a proposal that we might receive from a potential buyer of that mill. We have indicated our willingness to enter into negotiation and, possibly, assist financially in order to again get this mill operational.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INTERVENTION OF IMF TO BOLSTER VALUE OF CANADIAN DOLLAR

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance: it concerns the continuous decline of the Canadian dollar. At this point, do the minister and the government deem it expedient or desirable to ask for the intervention or involvement of the International