

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows we are having discussions with the government of Quebec and with other provinces on pension plans and related matters. I hope to be able to make a full statement on this matter in a day or two, but pending the completion of these discussions it is very difficult for me to say anything in the house.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**AMHERST, N.S.—REQUEST FOR WORK ORDERS TO PREVENT LAY-OFFS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry. Will the Minister of Industry give serious consideration to increasing the volume of overhaul and repair work to the Enamel and Heating Company of Amherst, Nova Scotia, in view of that company's intention to lay off 100 men in the next week as a result of lack of this type of work?

Mr. Speaker: There is great importance to this question, but I think it should be on the order paper.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, this is a most serious matter. Cumberland county has been designated a depressed area, and if the Minister of Industry can take some action immediately these men might not be laid off.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure that the importance of the question has now reached the Minister of Industry.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF WINTER WORKS PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. With regard to the comments he made in his budget speech about unemployment in designated areas, does the minister intend to co-operate with his colleague the Minister of Labour in order to find a solution which would extend the winter works period in designated areas?

[*Text*]

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think it is perhaps unnecessary to say that the members of this government co-operate with each other on all occasions and on all subjects.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gordon: I will be glad to continue to pursue that practice.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gregoire: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am convinced that the Minister of Finance co-operates with all his colleagues, but I would like to know whether he will co-operate with the Minister of Labour, in order to find a specific solution to that urgent important and current problem, to wit the extension of the winter works period in designated areas?

[*Text*]

Mr. Gordon: I have nothing further to add, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I have a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Minister of Labour has had an opportunity to check into his files to see if he has had a submission from the Canadian mayors and municipalities regarding the extension of the municipal winter works incentive program?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I want to confirm my understanding that no representation has been received from the Canadian federation of mayors and municipalities with respect to an extension of the program.

Mr. Nowlan: They must have fallen down on the job.

QUEBEC—ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY IN EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Industry a question. As the minister recently visited the eastern townships, in order to get some first hand information on the industrial position of that district, does he have any statement to make with regard to the help extended in a general way to industry in that part of the country?

Mr. Pigeon: Abolish the tax on building materials.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Not today, Mr. Speaker.

[*Later:*]

[*Translation*]

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Minister of Labour. Could he inform the house whether unemployment will be fought on a regional basis?

Mr. Pigeon: Abolish the tax on building materials.