

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Cyprus itself. I have been unable to discover anything about using these funds to pay debts. Cash pay in Cyprus will be in local currency in accordance with United Nations foreign policy.

**Mr. Stuart A. Fleming (Okanagan-Revelstoke):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Can the minister tell us why Canadian currency is not easily negotiable?

**Mr. Gordon:** Mr. Speaker, I happen to think that Canadian currency should be easily negotiable all over the world, but it so happens that the United States is a little better known than we are and its currency is more easily negotiable in some countries.

**Mr. Bell:** What is the minister doing about that?

[Later:]

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre asked what arrangements had been made for hospital services for Canadian troops serving in Cyprus. I can now give a detailed answer to the hon. member.

The Canadian army has obtained information from the British war office concerning the availability of medical resources in Cyprus, and such information has effected the formulation of the Canadian medical support plan.

The Canadian contingent includes the regimental medical officer and eight medical assistants of the Van Doos, together with normal medical stores. In addition, there are a second medical officer and four medical assistants attached to the Canadian contingent. Hospital facilities made available by the British consist of the British military hospital at Dekhelia and the Royal Air Force hospital at Akrotiri, both full treatment hospitals.

It is not the practice of the British to hold long term patients at these hospitals and, should the necessity arise, a Canadian air evacuation plan has been made using the R.C.A.F. 3 air wing hospital facilities at Zweibrücken in Germany.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING COVERAGE OF FARM LABOUR**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale):** I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Has the minister been informed by Mr. F. C. Cronkite of Saskatoon, chairman of the prairie regional employment committee, of a resolution recently adopted by the convention in Winnipeg requesting that

[Mr. Gordon.]

unemployment insurance coverage be extended to include farm labour? If so, has the minister any comments on this very important and urgent matter?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** I do not recall receiving the resolution to which the hon. member refers, but I will make an investigation to see whether I have received these representations with respect to the coverage of farm labour.

**PAYMENTS TO PERSONS REFUSING EMPLOYMENT IN STRIKEBOUND PLANT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** I wonder if the Minister of Labour is in a position to answer the question put to him yesterday with reference to the strikebound plant owned by Canadian Forest Industries Limited, and the complaint that persons refusing to take employment in this plant might forfeit their unemployment insurance benefits. Is that in fact the situation?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no. Section 59(2) (a) of the Unemployment Insurance Act provides that employment arising in consequence of a stoppage of work attributable to a labour dispute is not suitable employment. A claimant may therefore refuse such employment without loss of benefit.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****EMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** I have a question which I should like to address to the Minister of Labour. Will the minister inform the house what he is doing to ensure that his policy of helping older workers to obtain employment is being implemented within the public service itself?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** I shall be glad to look into the activities of the Department of Labour with respect to encouraging other government departments. I know that in all aspects of our employment program an effort is being made to encourage the government as an employer to follow in this direction.

**Mr. Grafftey:** A supplementary question. Is the Minister of Labour aware that the penitentiaries commission refuses to consider applications for work from individuals over the age of 45 for jobs other than those of a custodial nature? This being the case, will the minister make the strongest possible representations to the penitentiaries commission and to the civil service commission about discrimination of this sort? I ask this question—