

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I have indicated that the Unemployment Insurance Commission, both headquarters and field operations, will meet the budget which was discussed and placed before the main estimates committee early this spring.

Mr. Frank: I am not sure I understand what the minister means. Would he inform us whether headquarters costs have increased in comparison with last year and, if so, by approximately what percentage?

Mr. Andras: I cannot give the hon. member the percentage. All that detail was available to the committee and to all members who attended the committee this spring when the estimates were considered.

REPORTED OPPOSITION TO INCREASE IN PREMIUMS—
POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENTS TO ACT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to a poll which was reported in the *Toronto Sun* of November 30. Some 4,779 people were canvassed and the result indicated that 98.3 per cent of them felt that the recent 40 per cent increase in premiums was unjustified and 95 per cent of those polled believe there should be an inquiry into the whole workings of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Does the minister believe these figures are serious enough for him to bring in amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act, as requested by his colleague, the Minister of the Environment?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): There have been two or three very interesting polls in the last few days, as a matter of fact—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andras:—and these may be giving rise to some of the anxiety shown by hon. members on certain other matters. But the answer is no different from the information I have given in the House in the last several days, which is that the whole question of the Unemployment Insurance Commission, its budgets and the benefits paid will in the ordinary course of events be before hon. members when our main estimates are placed before the House.

Mr. Alexander: Having regard to the anxiety felt by many Canadians, and expressed by the people of the city of Toronto, surely the minister is not saying now that we must wait until February or March of 1974?

● (1440)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Oral Questions

[*Translation*]

URBAN AFFAIRS

OTTAWA-CARLETON—POSITION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON
VANIER ARTERIAL ROAD

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

Could the hon. minister tell the House whether the negotiations between the National Capital Commission, the Ottawa-Carleton regional municipality and the City of Vanier concerning the Vanier arterial have been concluded and whether this road will be more like a drive than like a highway?

[*English*].

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: Order paper.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister might reply briefly to the question. I am sure the hon. member for Ottawa-Vanier appreciates that, so far as the second part of the question is concerned, it is the kind of question that should be placed on the order paper.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply briefly to the first part of the hon. member's question, after which I will see the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, last spring I refused to allow NCC property to be used for the Vanier arterial, which was then designed as a speedway. Negotiations have been going on ever since and I am now prepared to recommend to my colleagues use of the NCC property for development to NCC standards of a four lane parkway for the Vanier arterial which meets the satisfaction of the city of Vanier and residents of the Edinburgh district. I appreciate the help and support that my hon. friend—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ROLE OF CANADA IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS WITHIN
NATO

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs at the recent NATO conference to the effect that all NATO members must be accorded equal status in the decision-making process, would the minister outline to the House just how long Canada expects to be able to maintain that position for