

### MANPOWER

#### LOCAL INITIATIVE PROGRAMS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PROGRESS IN APPROVING PROJECTS

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Hamilton West of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the deep concern on the part of organizations, particularly in areas of high unemployment, over the delays in having their local initiatives projects approved, would the minister investigate the reasons for the delays and make a statement on motions at the earliest possible opportunity outlining the reasons for the difficulties, the state of progress at present and the expected date of final approvals?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will give that request consideration.

#### ACTION TO EXPEDITE DEPARTMENTAL LABOUR-INTENSIVE PROJECTS

**Mr. Marshall:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Under the \$60 million federal labour-intensive program to bring forward departmental projects contemplated for future years, what action has the minister taken to put this program into effect and what criteria are being used as to the allocation of funds among the various departments and regions?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I assume the hon. member would expect the minister to give that information by way of a statement on motions.

#### LOCAL INITIATIVE PROGRAMS—ALLEGED DELAY IN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. Could the Minister of Manpower and Immigration explain to the House why it was, particularly in British Columbia, according to my personal knowledge, that all LIP applications for municipalities were postponed and given the last possible consideration for approval, thus preventing many municipalities from implementing programs before Christmas?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I was most certainly not aware of that condition. If the hon. member can give me details, I will be glad to investigate. As it stands now, I was not aware of that situation.

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### TRANSPORT

#### INQUIRY AS TO ACTION TO PREVENT CLOSING OF RAILWAY STATIONS IN WESTERN CANADA

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Does the minister propose any particular action to forestall the closing of

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many railway stations in western Canada, many of which are revenue producing?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the question is somewhat of a general nature and I would like to know the names of the stations referred to by the hon. member. I shall then be in a position to give him an answer.

[English]

**Mr. Korchinski:** Does the minister plan to have any meetings with the provincial authorities on this whole question, at which time all those names will be placed before him?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I say, Mr. Speaker, that I will meet the provinces not only on this but on the freight rate problem and many other problems as well.

**Mr. Korchinski:** When?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** After the throne speech debate.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Which one?

**Mr. Korchinski:** The minister is on record, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister inform the House whether his department is looking into the possibility of postponing the 1975 date for rail line abandonment, in conjunction with the problem raised by the hon. member for Mackenzie?

**Some hon. Members:** Answer!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Knight:** Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister a question relating to the abandonment of rail lines by 1975 under applications by the railways to the Canadian Transport Commission. I hope the minister will inform himself about this major problem facing western Canada. I ask the minister again if there will be—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has already asked his question.

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### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO STAFF RELATIONS ACT

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. Can the minister give the House some information as to when he intends to bring in amendments to the Public Service Staff Relations Act and whether we can anticipate legislation before the end of January?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, I am not in control