

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

minister, I would suggest to the minister that if he is going to make a statement of this nature it should be made on motions.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I then ask the minister whether he will make a statement on motions tomorrow, or certainly before the house recesses, in respect of this important matter?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, this is an important matter. My hon. friend will have noticed that the month to month increase in the labour force was considerable and that a very high proportion of that increase—about 81 per cent—consisted of persons under the age of 25 years. These number some 152,000. In the same period the employment growth month to month was 150,000. So in the past month there has been a very distinct—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member can see why the chair is always reluctant to allow replies to this type of question, which only lead to debate. We have heard a lengthy question and a lengthy statement. My suggestion is that this kind of statement ought to be made on motions rather than by way of an answer to a question.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Perhaps I may ask the minister this question: In view of the fact that the unemployment figure has risen by another 20,000 in the last month, does the minister intend to make a statement to the house before we recess as to what plans he has to provide employment for these students during the coming summer?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend had listened to my answer he would have noticed that in the past month the Canadian economy has shown remarkable strength in absorbing a very large number of young people coming into the labour market. If that trend continues for the next few months, and there is no certainty that it will, then—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has repeated the question, the minister has repeated the answer, and I now repeat the ruling.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

**SHIPBUILDING**

CANADIAN VICKERS—OFFER TO PURCHASE BY QUEBEC INVESTMENT CORPORATION

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Can he tell us whether he has received from the Quebec Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce an official request for co-operation with regard to the sale of the Canadian Vickers of Montreal to the Quebec Société générale de financement?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Last Saturday in Montreal, when I met the Quebec Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, he mentioned his intention to get in touch with me shortly regarding this matter.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Has the minister wished for the closing down of the Canadian Vickers at the earliest possible date, in order to get rid of that cancer?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member cannot inquire about the wishes of the minister.

[English]

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** May I ask the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether he saw a delegation of the C.S.N., the union at Canadian Vickers, today and whether he was able to assure them that the federal government would assist in obtaining or giving contracts to Canadian Vickers pending the completion of the study in respect of a maritime fleet in which the government is now engaged?

**Mr. Pepin:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I saw such a delegation. I had previously obtained information with respect to the number of ships the Canadian government was going to have built in the coming months. There was no indication that ship construction would be available in the short term ahead of us. The government also has a policy, dating back to 1965, on the necessity of bidding on such occasions.

**Mr. Bell:** Like the *Bonaventure*.