

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Of course, that has nothing to do with a point of order. With respect, I point that out to the hon. member. I will again attempt to recognize the hon. member for Hamilton West.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**EFFECT ON ACT OF QUEBEC BILL RELEASING
PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES FROM MAKING
CONTRIBUTIONS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my question may seem somewhat anticlimactic after that tirade between the hon. member and the Prime Minister. However, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour dealing with unemployment insurance and the result of the bill passed by the province of Quebec that will release some 200,000 provincial employees from unemployment insurance contributions under the Unemployment Insurance Act, with a possible loss of \$18 million to the federal government. Is the minister going to make a statement with regard to this matter and the several implications arising from it?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I intend to see that the bill is implemented in its entirety on January 1, 1972. The province of Quebec, like any other province, is permitted under that law to opt in for its civil servants who at the present time are exempt. I see no particular reason why I should make a statement or elaborate any further on the subject.

Mr. Alexander: In view of the action of the province of Quebec can the minister now assure the House—I have been endeavouring to obtain assurance on this point—that all other provinces will be involved in the act, or does the minister have any reason to believe any other province will be opting out?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House that all provinces will be treated equally. No province will be entitled to deviate from the law or to distort the law, and there will be no special status for any province. All provinces are free to include or exclude their civil servants as they see fit. That is the intent of the law. That is the way it was drafted and I am sure the hon. member is aware of that.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member but I have to bring to the attention of hon. members that we are running rather slowly today and not quite up to the usual effective schedule.

Mr. Alexander: I have one short supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the minister was positive with regard to the actuarial soundness of the unemployment insurance plan, would the minister in due course, and the sooner the better, make a statement with regard to the province of Quebec opting out and also whether in fact the plan is still actuarially sound?

[Mr. Lewis.]

Mr. Mackasey: I can assure the House of that fact now. The plan is actuarially sound. So far as to whether or not a particular province intends to opt in, I have no way of knowing until some time in November because the opting-in feature applies to people not presently covered and who would only be covered in January.

[Translation]

**INCLUSION OF QUEBEC CIVIL SERVANTS—
REPRESENTATIONS BY UNIONS**

Mr. Jacques-L. Trudel (Montréal-Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour.

Can the minister inform the House whether any representations were made by civil servants in Québec, or by unions representing such civil servants, requesting that they be covered under the new legislation?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Not to date, Mr. Speaker, but I know that all the major unions in the province of Quebec endorsed the concept of universality when they appeared before the committee which discussed the Unemployment Insurance Act.

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[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**ALLEGED USE OF TEENAGE INFORMERS—
INVESTIGATION AND POLICY**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General and it relates to the startling revelations made by Robert Wayne Eadie last evening. Would the Solicitor General inform the House whether he is making an immediate inquiry into these allegations, whether or not it is the policy of the RCMP to employ teenage informers with or without the consent of their parents and, if this is not the policy, what is the policy of the RCMP in this regard?

• (2.40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I consider the charges made yesterday against the RCMP as very serious ones and I intend to give them all the attention they require. I have, therefore, asked the commissioner of the RCMP to make a comprehensive investigation of the allegations that were made, and I will take the appropriate steps as soon as I get his report. In any case, I can assure hon. members they will be informed of all the facts regarding that matter.

[English]

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): In the meantime, while this investigation is being carried out, can the minister indicate what policy directives have application, whether issued directly from his department or from the headquarters of the RCMP itself, with regard to paid youth informers?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, I would rather wait until I have received the report to discuss the matter, but if the hon.