

inces. Talking about projections and trends compiled by his department, he said yesterday that he did not intend to make it a practice to publish these figures in future, either for Quebec or the other provinces. That statement is completely unacceptable. I ask, why should the provinces not have access to this information since, after all, taxpayer dollars were used to compile it. Will the minister say why his counterparts in the provinces, particularly the six provinces in which the survey indicates the existence of a problem, should not have that information?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the kind of information the provinces want in this area, information on projections and forecasts, is available from at least 12 other agencies operating in Canada; the provinces are in the same position as we are to choose, and to decide how much weight to give any particular piece of information. We have discovered from time to time that some projections are right, some are wrong; some are way off base, and some dead on. We have our own priorities in this regard. The provinces have their own departments. They exercise their own intelligence and draw their own conclusions.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister did not answer my question. I am not interested in those other 12 agencies. I am interested in the projections and trends the federal government compiled. Does the minister not know that when he covers up this information he hinders planning for social assistance? Will the minister not change his mind and share this information with his counterparts?

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[Translation]

HISTORIC SITES

DATE WHEN GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE POINTE-AU-PÈRE LIGHTHOUSE

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Public Works.

Since the old Pointe-au-Père lighthouse is a tourist attraction in eastern Quebec which has been classified as an historic site as of last week, and since the lighthouse's caretaker had been instructed last year not to admit any more visitors because of the dangerous conditions existing at the entrance, can the minister tell us whether his department intends to open the lighthouse to the public in the near future, and if so, when does he think that repairs will be carried out?

[English]

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to look into the matter. I am not familiar with the situation at the lighthouse. If we have a responsibility, I will look into it and see what can be done.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING CHICKEN MARKETING BOARD

Mr. Pierre Bussières (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the representations made by the Quebec Farmers' Union, the Quebec Poultry Producers' Federation and other Canadian poultry producers, asking that a chicken marketing board be established, could the Minister of Agriculture inform us of his intentions or the government's regarding the possible establishment of such a marketing board?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I cannot add much to what I said yesterday. We have been discussing this question in cabinet very seriously.

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IMMIGRATION

EFFECT OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES ON SELECTION OF IMMIGRANTS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration concerns the sharing of immigration powers between the federal government and the province of Quebec. The minister, in his reply of May 30 as reported on page 6043 of *Hansard*, indicated that agreement had been reached on the establishment of a joint working group to look at the options for future immigration and sharing of powers. Will that joint working group study an option providing for equal sharing of power, or what the minister prefers to call codetermination of immigration powers as between the federal and provincial governments in the selection of immigrants? If that option is accepted, would it not give veto power to any given province, in this case Quebec? I say this since section 95 of the BNA Act still gives the federal government a primary responsibility in immigration.

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I preface my answer by saying we were operating under the aegis of section 95, from which the authority stems. Therefore there is no suggestion of a veto. There would be codetermination possibility with regard to a points system, or with regard possibly to a sponsorship program, or any other similar ideas which could be engendered in that particular meeting; they could emanate from ourselves or Mr. Couture's department. Recognizing the spirit of section 95, we are trying to do what is in the best interests of Canada and Quebec. We have a common interest with Quebec to increase Francophone immigration where we can.

Mr. Epp: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the minister answered the right hon. member for Prince Albert, was he answering in the spirit of section 95, to which he referred just now. I point out that, although that spirit exists, the federal government still retains primary responsibility