

Oral Questions

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL PROGRAM TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. As unemployment among young people under 25 is approximately four times the level among people over 25, and as the minister has indicated that employment opportunities are where they count, I wonder if the minister is seriously considering any special program for young people, aside from the anticipated Opportunities for Youth program for next spring, to make sure that our young people do not continue to be disillusioned and become disaffected from our economic system?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am a little puzzled by the hon. member's reference to "employment opportunities where they count." That interpretation of my speech is a bit baffling. Nevertheless, I do recognize the fact that employment opportunities for young people and for certain regions of Canada require a much more precise rifle shooting approach to them than is required to respond to the general, global unemployment rate. That was the theme of my speech the other day.

Mr. Lundrigan: Then why does the minister not do that?

* * *

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REASON FOR ALLEGED DECREASE IN FUNDS—CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. As the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment has increased to 6 per cent and as unemployment among persons between 14 and 24 years of age has risen to almost 11 per cent of the possible work force, can the minister explain why funds made available for local initiatives projects, which involve mainly young people, have been reduced this year to \$83 million from last year's start-up figure of \$165 million and a further supplementary amount last year of \$70 million?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the start-up figure last year at this time, if I remember correctly, was between \$80 million and \$85 million. This is under constant review.

Mr. Orlikow: In view of the very high unemployment among young people, why have the criteria for qualifying for projects been made so much more difficult this year, with the result that there will be far fewer people working on these projects?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I rather doubt that is the case. I think the revisions in the criteria were designed to ensure that the funds under this program would go to the pockets of highest unemployment rather than being diverted to other services no matter how worthy or justified they might be for other reasons.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE SLOWDOWN OR FREEZE ON TRANSFER OF HOSPITALS TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the abrupt desire to retire of Dr. Ritchie, Assistant Deputy Minister of Hospitals, can we now infer that there will be a slowdown or, even better, a freeze on the transfer of veterans' hospitals to other jurisdictions?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry but I did not have my receiver on and did not hear the question.

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, in view of the abrupt desire to retire of Dr. Ritchie, Assistant Deputy Minister of Hospitals, can we now infer that there may be a slowdown or, even better, a freeze on the transfer of veterans' hospitals to other jurisdictions?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, to answer the first part of the question may I say there has not been any sudden intention at all, as is known by many of us. As far as hospital transfers are concerned, the policy of the government has not been changed.

* * *

[Translation]

AIRPORTS

STE-SCHOLASTIQUE—REQUEST OF PEOPLE WHOSE LANDS WERE EXPROPRIATED TO MEET WITH MINISTER

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the hon. Minister of Public Works.

Fifteen days ago I submitted to him a petition from the 582 expropriated owners at Ste-Scholastique. Can the minister tell us when he will meet with them?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I have already had the pleasure of meeting in my office a committee representing the Ste-Scholastique expropriated owners. My colleague the Minister of Transport and myself have decided to go to Ste-Scholastique, probably in the next 15 or 20 days. The date has not yet been set definitely, but we are now checking what methods can be used to ensure that all cases are settled fairly.

* * *

[English]

FOOD PRICES

GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING REVIEW BOARD CLAIM THAT PRICES NOT ROCKETING OUT OF CONTROL AND EXCESSIVE PROFITS NOT BEING MADE BY PROCESSORS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. According to Canada