

Inquiries of the Ministry

Could he tell the House if the results of projects undertaken under the local initiatives program satisfactorily meet the government's criteria?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the applications being approved, do of course meet our criteria to the extent that we can determine.

[Translation]

EFFECTS OF LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM RATE OF
UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a supplementary.

Would he say if now at the end of the year the unemployment rate has decreased or increased?

Mr. Speaker: This is statistical information. The hon. member might put his question on the order paper.

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[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

HIJACKING—RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS—
AMENDMENTS TO CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question relates to the previous round of questioning regarding air piracy and hijackings. I understand that Canada intends to ratify both The Hague and Montreal conventions on this subject. Since the Canadian ratification of these two conventions depends upon amendments to the Criminal Code which we were promised about one year ago would be brought forward in the immediate future, may I ask the Minister of Justice when these particular amendments or appropriate amendments will be coming forward.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, domestic legislation not only depends on multilateral treaties; it also depends on the ratification of bilateral treaties with the United States, Cuba and other nations. When that treaty picture is completely in place, domestic legislation will be immediately forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. John's East and then the hon. member for Peace River. Later during the question period we may return to this interesting subject.

[Later:]

HIJACKING—MEASURES TO PROTECT CANADIANS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Solicitor General what security arrangements he is making to protect Canadians from hijacking in Canada.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be proper to comment on that.

[Mr. Latulippe.]

[English]

HIJACKING—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF LEGISLATION

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Since the Speech from the Throne 15 months ago announced there was to be legislation with regard to air piracy, will the Minister of Justice table that bill at present, if there was in fact such a bill on that date.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I said on several occasions that domestic and international aspects of the problem have to be dealt with simultaneously. When that has been done, the bill will be forthcoming.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AIR PIRACY—DATE OF COMPLETION OF EXTRADITION
TREATIES

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since the Minister of Justice has indicated that amendments to the Criminal Code are dependent on the successful completion of multilateral and bilateral treaties, can the minister indicate to the House when he expects those treaties to be successfully concluded.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, so far as the treaty between Canada and Cuba is concerned, we expect that it will be forthcoming fairly soon. The second and, I hope, final round will take place very soon. Perhaps I ought to explain to the House that it is quite possible to take legal action under the existing extradition treaty between Cuba and Canada; it does not depend upon any future treaty.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—POSSIBLE
REMOVAL OF SAFEGUARDS—CONTINGENCY PLAN TO
COUNTER DISC PROGRAM

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. It has to do with negotiations taking place on the automobile trade pact between Canada and the United States and is based on the statement by the right hon. gentleman that perhaps the United States is justified in asking for some amelioration of the safeguards and the statement of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in the House that perhaps the auto industry does not need such safeguards. May I ask the right hon. gentleman, first, if the automobile industry and the government of Ontario share in this optimism and, second, if he is aware of a contingency plan that can be implemented quickly if the DISC program should prove that jobs will be exported from this country to the United States.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have some serious doubts about the legitimacy of the first part of the question. The