

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

change of letters between France's chargé d'affaires in Ottawa and myself last February 27.

[Text]

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON EFFECTS OF AUTOMATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour an abstract question arising out of the first report of the economic council and several of the studies and monographs which have just been published which have tended immediately to get the popular interpretation that the advance of automation is not a very serious factor in the unemployment situation. The latest monograph, the one by Mrs. Ostry, coincides with the one published by the Ontario economic council relating to the lakehead, which says that structurally unemployment is a most serious thing, which is a general contradiction.

I want to ask the minister, in view of the confusion which is developing about this factor, whether as the senior policy making person he or his department has any statement or appreciation to give the public in this particular controversy or difference of opinion which is developing.

**Some hon. Members:** Order paper.

**Mr. Fisher:** How can you put that on the order paper?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The question is undoubtedly very interesting and important, but it seems it would require a long explanation at this time. If the minister is prepared to give an answer, that is well; otherwise I think the question should be put on the order paper.

[Later:]

**Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour which is relevant to the report that the Minister of Finance tabled this morning. I would like to ask my question of the Minister of Labour because it has some pertinence to one of the phrases in the report, and I shall ask my question in French because I have only the French report.

[Translation]

Does the Minister of Labour agree with this part of the report on page 4, which says:

However, consideration will have to be given to serious problems, such as slow development and

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

excessive unemployment, in some industries and areas which will need special attention.

Does the Minister of Labour intend to pay special attention to the province of Quebec and to the city of Montreal, which are faced at present with a serious unemployment problem in spite of the fine reports made to the minister?

[Text]

**Mr. Speaker:** It does seem to me that while this is a very interesting and important question, indeed especially interesting to me, nevertheless it does raise a question of policy far too large for an answer to be expected at this time. Possibly the hon. member would put it on the order paper.

**Mr. Valade:** Then I ask this question. In view of the statement in the report that there is excessive unemployment in certain regions and special attention has to be given to this matter, what special attention does the minister intend to give in the province of Quebec? This is an urgent matter, because we are facing a great unemployment problem in that province.

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that certain parts of Canada have experienced excessive unemployment, and there will be an opportunity for the government to disclose its intentions with respect to further measures in this field in the speech from the throne next session.

**EXEMPTION OF CROWN CORPORATIONS FROM NEW LABOUR CODE**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

**Mr. Robert Beaulé (Quebec East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour.

Can the minister tell the house if he intends to follow up the statement made by some crown corporations which would like to evade the new federal labour code?

[Text]

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** No, Mr. Speaker, I have no intention, if it is at all possible, of leaving anyone outside the code.

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF WINTER WORKS PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern):** I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I should like to ask him whether it is the intention of the