

tions, safety procedures and equipment, would the minister say whether he or his officials are taking any part in the discussions with the pilotage authority to see if agreement can be reached on these matters, since I understand that it is not the salary negotiations that are causing the strike?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think this is only part of the picture. It is not only a question of security but of working conditions. The pilots are asking for the same type of security as civil servants, but at the same time they do not want to become civil servants. They want to be regarded as a corporation and are seeking conditions that are unknown anywhere in Canada. This does not mean, of course, that we should not try to solve the problem, and we are trying to solve it. We know what the case is and we are trying to be helpful in the circumstances without embarrassing anyone.

Mr. Speaker: Order. For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Abitibi.

* * *

[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Since the government recently secured passage of Bill C-124 to grant the Unemployment Insurance Commission unlimited public funds to pay the unemployed not to work, is the Prime Minister ready to have additional funds voted for the Manpower and Immigration Department to allow more local initiatives projects to be approved and more unemployed to find useful occupations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I disagree with the hon. member's preamble and the assertion that the purpose of the Unemployment Insurance Act is to pay people for not working, which is simply not the case. It's an insurance. If someone burns his house down, he gets nothing; nothing is paid him to keep him from doing it either.

Mr. Laprise: A supplementary, if you will allow it, Mr. Speaker.

Would the Prime Minister be ready to indicate that the purpose of the Local Initiatives Program is to combat winter unemployment? If so, and the Prime Minister told us it was the case, why ask for additional funds to combat winter unemployment?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is starting an argument and not asking a question as such.

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF REJECTED PROJECTS

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Oral Questions

Since many projects have been submitted and very few approved and considering the limited budget, is it the intention of the right hon. Prime Minister to at least discuss with his colleagues the possibility of reconsidering the projects which have been rejected, in the interest of the localities which have submitted them?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to commit the government in that respect. In December or November the government almost doubled the funds earmarked for LIP. Surely there is a limit to what the government can spend in one area. If the hon. member would wait for the budget speech he will see what the government intends to do to help the economy in different ways, but as far as LIP is concerned, if the member will allow me, I will quote the Gospel: Many are called but few are chosen.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We should try to make some headway. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Lotbinière for a last supplementary and will then recognize the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

[Translation]

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Finance.

During consideration of Vote L12a of the Department of Finance, the minister told the House that he would look into the possibility of increasing the funds for the Local Initiatives Program by \$10 million. Can the minister tell us now whether he has reached a conclusion?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I am considering the situation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Three supplementaries have already been asked on the same subject. I recognize its importance, and I shall recognize the hon. member for Lotbinière in a moment.

[Later:]

Mr. Fortin: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will not take advantage of your indulgence.

The right hon. Prime Minister said no to my question and the Minister of Finance said he was examining the proposal. Then, can the Minister of Finance say if it is his intention to submit to the cabinet a proposal to increase the budget of the Local Initiatives Program as soon as possible or will he be discussing that with his colleague the Minister of Manpower and Immigration?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I just said, Mr. Speaker, that I was examining the proposal. In any case, the second half of the votes for local initiatives projects is still before the House. So, our friends the Progressive Conservatives should be told to speed the passage of this bill.