

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

improvement loans are no longer attractive to the banks because of the interest rate, and farmers therefore find it difficult to obtain financial assistance under the farm improvement loan plan; and in view of the severe cost-price squeeze prevailing in the agricultural industry, will the minister institute a search for ways and means to encourage the banks to continue to provide assistance to farmers under the farm improvement loans legislation?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member is making very general representations and submissions to the minister. I do not think this question could be considered acceptable at this time.

## ATLANTIC AREA—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION IN BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David MacDonald (Prince):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the recent statements and representations by the four Atlantic area premiers, will the Minister of Finance assure them and this house that his budget proposals on Thursday night and proposed expenditure cuts will be sufficiently flexible that they will not adversely affect the economy of the Atlantic region?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is a speech, not a question.

## MANPOWER

## REPORTED DECREASE IN RETRAINING PROGRAMS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of manpower. In view of the fact that recent amendments to the vocational and technical retraining program have resulted in a drastic decrease in enrolment, notwithstanding the worsening unemployment situation, would the minister take immediate steps to restore the effectiveness of this program?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I think I have already explained in this house the reason for the decrease in the number of persons assigned to retraining. The situation is correcting itself and I think that, in a few weeks, the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) will not have any questions to ask on this matter.

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[English]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Inasmuch as the Indian citizens are most seriously affected by this problem, will the minister give special consideration to their situation?

[Translation]

**Mr. Marchand:** I have already stated, Mr. Speaker, that Indians and Eskimos were treated exactly like all other Canadians.

[English]

## LABOUR CONDITIONS

## CALGARY—LAY-OFFS RESULTING FROM CONSTRUCTION DECLINE

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of manpower. In view of the fact that Atco Industries in Calgary laid off 200 men last week as the result of a decline in the construction industry, has the minister been able to find any alternative employment for these men?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry but I did not hear the name of the company.

**Mr. Harkness:** The Atco Company, the Alberta Trailer Company of Calgary, which I believe, is the foremost producer of trailers and mobile homes in Canada.

[Translation]

**Mr. Marchand:** Mr. Speaker, I will inquire about the work done by the manpower officers and report on this matter soon.

[English]

## TRADE

## CHEESE—REQUEST FOR EXPORT ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING CURRENCY DEVALUATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lee Grills (Hastings South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. As a result of the deleterious effect on Canadian exports of cheese of the devaluation of the English pound, has the minister or his department given any consideration to correcting this situation and giving some encouragement to the cheese industry? I may say there was no cheese sold through the local cheese board last week.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I believe the hon. member will recall a similar question was asked just two or three days ago.