

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

TERMS OF LOAN FROM PENSION FUND TO FIDINAM (ONTARIO) LIMITED—INQUIRY AS TO LEASING BY RAILWAY OF PART OF UPPER CANADA PLACE

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Will the minister inform the House of the terms under which the Canadian National Railways pension fund made a loan to the Swiss-based, foreign-owned corporation, Fidinam (Ontario) Limited, amounting to \$33 million?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I was not aware of this. I will take the question as notice and inform the hon. member as to the situation.

Mr. Harney: While the minister has that question under notice would he look into the following matter as well? Has the CNR pension fund contracted to lease back part of Upper Canada Place in Toronto, the building in question, in a manner similar to that arranged between the Workmen's Compensation Board of Ontario and Fidinam (Ontario) Limited?

• (1440)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that this question should be placed on the order paper. The minister having been advised, at the same time he looks into the first matter perhaps he will look into the second.

* * *

[Translation]

POST OFFICE

INQUIRY RESPECTING CALENDAR PUBLISHED BY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General.

Since the calendar just published by his department makes no reference to the national day of French Canadians, does the minister intend to have a new calendar printed?

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, for the information of the hon. member, I wish to indicate that already some representatives of the government party have made the same request. I shall simply remind the hon. member that this calendar is not an ordinary one, but rather a document designed to help the Post Office customers to better use the services offered by the department and to offer them guidance with regard to their mailings.

It is true that no mention is made either of the feast of St. John the Baptist, or of St. Joseph, or of the Queen's birthday in that calendar. But can the hon. member give me the assurance that the Canadian people will start sending greeting cards for St. John the Baptist day—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question.

Oral Questions

I am happy to see that the minister has been sensitized to the question after the event. However, can he tell the House whether he was aware of the fact before the publication of the calendar and why he did not act then in order to have the French culture get as much respect as the others?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think that the hon. member's question is in order.

* * *

[English]

MANPOWER

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM—REQUEST BY MUNICIPALITIES TO PARTICIPATE

Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In light of the fact that municipalities throughout Canada and in particular the city of London have expressed an interest in and a desire to be included in the on-the-job training program, has the minister given this any consideration?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we are giving consideration to the possibility of public bodies participating in the on-the-job training program. The final answer is not yet available but I will advise the House when that decision is made.

Mr. Frank: In view of the fact that large municipalities such as the city of London are major employers and the fact that the same municipalities are eligible for local improvement grants, this request should be worthy of more consideration—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West on a supplementary.

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—APPROVAL OF PROJECTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, in view of the serious unemployment situation, can the minister now bring us up to date in respect of approval of projects in the amount of \$50 million under the Local Initiatives Program?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, approvals to date represent, I think, some 70 per cent of the funds which were made available. I really am repeating myself in this answer in view of the details I gave yesterday. I can only undertake to do our very best to have all approvals finalized by January 19. This will represent a situation where applications were held open deliberately and announced as such until December 31. It would have been both unfair and impossible to deal with all the applications prior to that date.