

equipment driver and there is a shortage of workers in that field there.

But that was the hitch, Mr. Speaker. The company which was prepared to hire our man could not do so unless he went through the Montreal provincial manpower centre. He had to go back, and it had cost him \$115. That is the way they treat the unemployed!

Mr. Speaker, we question the value of certain rules and we wonder where they originated. Officials of the commission assured me that they were never consulted, and the representatives of major unions were not either. No employer seems to have consulted them, or the hon. members of this House, for that matter.

As some regulations are inapplicable, I realize we are facing regulations suggested by one person only. In my opinion, no team would have taken such a stupid decision.

Mr. Speaker, all I am asking the hon. minister is this: who is that person who could have dreamed up regulations which are a nuisance for the unemployed and the Unemployment Insurance Commission staff?

[English]

**Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the regulation to which the hon. member refers has been in effect for some seven months. It is regulation 145(9) which came into effect on June 23, 1972, and reads as follows:

For the purposes of paragraph 25(a) of the act, a claimant fails to prove that he is available for work and unable to obtain suitable employment on each working day in a period if he fails to prove that during that period he made reasonable and customary efforts to obtain employment.

Claimants who do not make reasonable efforts to seek employment in areas where there are known to be job vacancies are therefore not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits. The purpose of requiring claimants to furnish evidence that they have conducted an active search for work is to determine whether claimants are entitled to receive benefits, in accordance with the requirement of the above regulation. The application of this regulation by the commission does not affect the operation of the Canada Manpower program.

I have to say that the parade of horrors to which we have been treated by the hon. member simply does not exist or, if it does exist, it exists only in isolated cases. The plain fact is that the search for jobs has to be conducted in a way that is appropriate to the skill of the person unemployed and appropriate to the area. If no jobs are available in the area, the search required does not have to be a strenuous one. Or if all employers in the area hire under the Canada Manpower service, it is sufficient for the unemployed person to register with that service. In other words, the interpretation of this rule varies from place to place. It is applied according to the conditions in the place concerned.

As the regulation says, he must make "reasonable and customary efforts to obtain employment." The reference to "customary efforts" has reference to the custom in the district in which the unemployed person resides. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that in our view the problem to which the hon. member has referred does not exist in an acute form. If he knows of any cases where, by

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accident, problems have occurred, we would be very pleased if he would bring them to the attention of the department or of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

#### HOUSING—LAND ASSEMBLY PROGRAM— RECONSIDERATION OF INVESTMENT OF FUNDS IN PROPOSED GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP PROJECT

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, on January 30 I asked a question of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Basford) with respect to the land banking arrangement, or land assembly program as it has been called, or the model city, as it has been sometimes called, to be located at Carlsbad Springs in the township of Gloucester in the national capital area. I want to thank the minister for his courtesy in coming here this evening to listen to what I have to say.

• (2220)

I asked the minister at that time whether the government was reconsidering its decision to invest public funds in that project. I want to make it clear at the outset that I am not against the concept of land banking because I believe it is one of the things that we will require in this country as time goes on. However, I think land banking must be done with a certain amount of perception, having regard to the need, and the need of this day and this time ought not to be ignored.

My question and my respectful submission at that time arose because I believed there was an attitude of premature maturity with respect to the development in that place. Most important, I think there has been, and the press has indicated since that this is so, an obvious lack of consultation between the municipal authorities of the township of Gloucester and the department in respect of the investment of public funds for such a project in that location. I believe it is important in matters of land banking on large assemblies which will affect the development of many properties that there be proper consultation.

The reeve of the township has said that this is the least suitable site. He is concerned with the financial problems in which a dormitory community might involve the township, and he is concerned about the quality of the land. Just recently the regional municipality asked the senior governments to keep their hands off planning in their area. They are in the midst of dealing with an official plan and it is important to them in the development of this plan that there be the greatest possible consultation.

The eruption at the recent regional executive meeting indicates that as far as that council is concerned there has not been that kind of consultation. Moreover, from the engineering point of view—and I care not what tests there are, the minister has not produced any tests of the suitability of the land—there is an extremely high water table and instability of land, I am told. As a result, whatever development is proposed it cannot be a mixture of development and land use which will supply an immediate need for varied housing properly supported by the usual commercial amenities.

With respect to the problems of servicing and urban transportation there has been no consultation. The