

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Representatives of the National Harbours Board attended a seminar held at Churchill, which the hon. member also may have attended, met subsequently with representatives of the government of Manitoba, and within the last week presented me with a summary of the findings of the seminar, together with certain recommendations which are now being examined to determine their feasibility.

Mr. Simpson: Can the minister say whether at this time plans are being considered for this necessary dredging project?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the matters that was included in the suggestions, and we are trying to determine whether it is practical to do what is suggested.

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AIRPORTS

PICKERING TOWNSHIP SITE—AUTHORITY OF SPECIAL INQUIRY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS—PUBLICATION OF REPORT

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In light of his welcome answer yesterday to my question regarding a special inquiry respecting the airport site at Pickering, would the minister indicate to the House whether this board will be given the power to make recommendations to the government and whether its report will be made public?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): In both cases the answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cafik: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate whether those whose land will be expropriated prior to that hearing taking place will have the option of repurchasing their property in the event that the project does not proceed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is obviously hypothetical.

Mr. Cafik: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I realize that in technical terms it is a hypothetical question, but it is not a hypothetical problem because many people need to know right now what the government's position is going to be in order to make intelligent decisions on how they will dispose of their property.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Wellington.

[Mr. Simpson.]

WELFARE

REIMBURSEMENT OF PROVINCES FOR PAYMENTS UNTIL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS RECEIVED

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that thousands of unemployed Canadians have had to wait for their benefits, thereby making it necessary for them to go to welfare offices for subsistence, is it the intention of the government to reimburse the provinces for this added welfare expense?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the act provides precisely for that. The hon. gentleman, who is very close to this particular matter because of his concern about spending, will be pleased to know that despite higher unemployment in the greater Toronto area the number of people receiving welfare has dropped by at least 4,000 as a result of receiving increased benefits through the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

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MANPOWER

PROVISION OF FURTHER PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and is supplementary to one asked earlier by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby. In light of the fact that the Local Initiatives Program is to terminate on September 30, can the minister assure the participants in that program that there will be no gap between the termination of LIP and any new program he may announce, or the continuation of LIP?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we are reviewing the programs that were extended this summer, particularly because I share the general principle that the young man has enunciated, but some of the programs have not met the criteria that were set out in June. I would imagine there could be a possibility that 50 per cent of them might be extended for an indefinite period, but that would be based strictly on quality and whether or not they have deviated from their original intent.

Mr. Nystrom: Can the minister give us any indication of when he will be making that decision and making an announcement as to the future of these projects?

Mr. Mackasey: At the earliest opportunity next week on motions, Mr. Speaker.