

in a particular area which will make it an even more exact indicator of the unemployment in that particular area. We are, fortunately, working on a bilateral and multilateral basis with my opposite numbers in all of the provinces, endeavouring to meet the needs of the specific provinces either through community employment strategy studies or dealings on a bilateral basis with officials in various provinces, given their particular problems.

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FINANCE

DATE OF BUDGET—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE FOCUS WILL BE ON JOB CREATION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my final supplementary to the Prime Minister. If I recall correctly, the parliamentary secretary in his answer stated that we can expect a budget by the summer. Considering that the forecast for unemployment for next year by almost every group outside the government, and two government departments, indicates the worst level of unemployment since World War II, will the Prime Minister give us a date or approximate date for a budget? Hopefully it will be within the next few weeks, and not until the summer. In addition, can he assure the House that the principal focus of that budget will be job creation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I indicated that the budget would be forthcoming in this session. I did not indicate toward the summer. The exact date will be given by the Minister of Finance when he is in the House very soon. He will be able to announce that date. With regard to the particular province of Newfoundland which the hon. member was inquiring about, I had a long exchange of correspondence with Premier Moores. I indicated in quite some detail the kinds of expenditures that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration is making and many other areas of expenditure upon which the federal government is engaged to create jobs in that province. Naturally, the budget will be concerned with the state of economy and the very serious problem of unemployment. However, we on this side do not forget it is also important to keep inflation at a low rate. We hope that for a change we will have the support of the hon. member on this subject.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

ALLEGED CONFLICT BETWEEN REGULATION AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

On November 24 last, I asked with my colleague from Bellechasse whether his department had taken a decision

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concerning the unemployed who, according to the commission, are involved in a collective dispute in the construction industry. The minister replied that he would look into the matter and report. Well, no decision has yet been taken and these unemployed are still waiting for it, while they are not considered eligible for welfare benefits. Is the minister in a position to advise today whether the commission has taken a decision about these cases so as to allow thousands of Quebeckers to obtain their just share?

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have reviewed up to 50,000 applications and we still have 70 to examine. We now have 325 appeals to consider. We expect this will be done by January 27.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Is the minister aware of the existence of instruction No. 7,542,145, signed by a Mr. Sanschagrin, a civil servant, document of which I have a copy, to the effect that the commission must not advise recipients of the decisions rendered, which means that these recipients cannot appeal these decisions? Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious policy. We are dealing here with an internal instruction which states that in every case where this administrative provision applies, it is very important that no notice of ineligibility be sent to the recipients. For all practical purposes, this deprives them of the right to go before the administrative tribunal of the Labour Council and appeal the decisions rendered by the commission. Is the minister aware of this instruction and is he willing to deal fairly with the recipients and to withdraw these instructions so that they may obtain justice from the commission?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, first I must examine the instruction the hon. member has been talking about.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION TO STUDY PROBLEMS IN NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR DETAILS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Since unemployment is closely related to transportation, may I ask the Minister of Transport whether he has yet made a decision with regard to the appointment of a commission to study transportation in Newfoundland, bearing in mind the impact of the present transport situation upon the current unemployment rate? Has he considered the relationship between such a study and the trans-Newfoundland corridor study already computed? When does he expect to appoint the commission and can he give the House details concerning its terms of reference?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): We have been working with representatives of the government of Newfoundland to determine appropriate terms of reference which would permit a broad investigation into the transportation problems