

Oral Questions

is a real obligation which we hope to discharge in time and which would not be helped by the kind of inflammatory approach the hon. member is suggesting.

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HEALTH**ESTABLISHMENT OF ABORTION COMMITTEES BY HOSPITALS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the very important medical, social and moral facts put forward by members of the Canadian Physicians for Life in their open letter of April 4, for the sake of the women and unborn children of Canada, for the sake of the doctors and other concerned medical personnel of Canada, will the minister please withdraw his proposal that the hospitals of Canada be forced to establish abortion committees?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I have never said that hospitals should be forced to establish abortion committees. This is certainly not a matter which I can force upon the provinces. But I still believe that the hospitals are semi-public institutions and should provide those services needed by the people of this country.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER**LOCAL INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS—POSSIBILITY FOR INCREASED AID**

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

Given the very recent figures on unemployment which were just published and which show once more that Quebec ranks second when it comes to the unemployed in Canada, could the minister responsible for LIP and Opportunities for Youth tell the House what is his department's intention with regard to the extension of local initiative projects and, second, has the minister considered the possibility of increasing the Opportunities for Youth budget to help us especially in Quebec to check the startling unemployment rate among young workers?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I answered an earlier question by saying that I would be making announcements with regard to summer employment for students. In connection with the Local Initiatives Program I would not make any comment now. My colleague the Minister of Finance has indicated that we are constantly reviewing the situation with regard to unemployment, the effect of the budget of last November, and any other measures which he deems are necessary within the framework of economic policy. We are discussing these matters and at the appropriate time announcements will be made.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

[Translation]

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS—REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENT IN PROGRAM

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary question.

The Department of Manpower and Immigration is now publishing advertisements in newspapers inviting young people to register with Manpower Centres, if they want to find jobs during the summer months. Now, these young people, when they go to the centres, are being answered: "We do not have jobs at the present time." Why are these young people invited to ask for employment when the department is unable to provide it?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member is not suggesting that we abandon all efforts to place young people. This program is part of that operation. If there is a specific instance in a local manpower centre where such an answer was given which was not to his satisfaction, I would be prepared to look into it.

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HEALTH**PROPOSAL TO ASSIST IN PROVISION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that several of the provinces in one way or another now assist certain sections of the population with respect to the cost of prescription drugs, is the government giving consideration to a national pharmacare program, going along with the provinces, so that Canadians from coast to coast can be assisted in connection with the high cost of prescription drugs?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Not now, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): If the government is not prepared to consider that at the present time, is it prepared to consider the first steps toward such a program by providing for the coverage of prescription drugs for all persons in Canada who are in receipt of old age security?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Not now, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

ENERGY**OIL—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON FLOOR PRICE**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I