

wanted, yet next week the government is closing down that committee's hearings. Does the minister intend to impose Bill C-48 on the northern people without hearing from them and without consulting with them? Will he put an end to the steamrolling of Bill C-48 and allow the members to go up north and listen to the native people?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, there are so many inaccuracies in the hon. member's question I do not know quite where to start. There was no closure in respect of Bill C-48; there was an allocation of time under Standing Order 75C. As far as the hearings are concerned, the committee has heard a very large number of witnesses on Bill C-48 from industry, people from the north, and all kinds of experts from Canada and abroad. Certainly this bill during this session has been the subject of discussion by the largest number of witnesses, second to the constitutional resolution, obviously. As far as the proceedings of the committee are concerned, the committee is the master of its own business and it is improper for me to comment on its activities.

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● (1450)

[Translation]

MANPOWER

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS

Mr. Normand Lapointe (Beauce): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Considering that highly creative projects presented under the program of Canada Community Services projects have been temporarily shelved, can the minister say whether his department will soon release additional funds to make it possible to carry out those projects presented by people who are particularly affected by unemployment such as women, the handicapped and young graduates who would use such projects to meet precise social needs?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question, and I am pleased he found that particular program to be beneficial to those who really need the assistance. For his information, we have signed something close to 500 projects across this country; of the participants in those projects, two thirds of them are women, large numbers are disabled, and many of them are young people, so I think the program has reached its objective. Because of the program's success we have an additional \$1 million in supplementary estimates for it, and if the hon. member has some good projects he would like to propose, I would certainly be very pleased to receive them.

Oral Questions

FINANCE

INDEXING OF INCOME TAX AND SOCIAL TRANSFER PAYMENTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance and is supplementary to those of the hon. member for St. John's West and the hon. member for York-Peel. Last fall, with inflation considerably less than it is today, the minister considered, but did not put in his budget, a limit on the indexing of personal income tax and social transfer payments. The January 9 Finance Department document stated that, despite political difficulties, that policy appears to be worth keeping under consideration.

Will he tell this House whether he is again considering the imposition of a limit on such indexing, and give the House his assurance that he will not consider this in the future given its unfair application to the taxpayers and the recipients of old age pensions and so on?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I refer the hon. member to the budget statement itself when I dealt with the question of indexation and I said there, as I recollect, this was a subject that one might return to later. That situation has not changed and the words used in the October budget still apply.

Mr. Andre: So the minister is saying that still remains a threat to Canadians.

TAX BASED INCOMES POLICY

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Is the minister considering a tax based incomes policy with reference to price and wage guidelines, or does he agree with another part of the January 9 discussion paper which states that such a policy would cause more problems than it would be worth? Could he tell the House what his views are with regard to such a policy, and does he also go along with the view expressed in that discussion paper that this is unfair?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have not reached the conclusion to introduce TIP, as it is called, and if and when I do the House of Commons will be the first to know.

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THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT POLICY TO COMBAT INFLATION

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Madam Speaker, on March 24 the Prime Minister stated in this House that the causes of inflation were "mainly energy prices and higher food prices and interest rates". Surely the Prime Minister is aware by now that when energy and food prices are removed, inflation is still running at a rate of 10.2 per cent.

In view of this I ask him to comment on these facts, interest rates clearly being an area that he could control, and tell the