

unemployment keeps increasing. As the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce is finally going to get around to correcting the gross national product statistics, will this minister look at the terribly inaccurate unemployment statistics used by his department to slash LIP grants to the Atlantic area this year?

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this is an ongoing problem that we have each year trying to determine the appropriate and fair method of computing the amount of LIP money that should be put into a particular region. I can say that complaints come from both sides of the House. In one region of a province a million dollars may be made available and in another corner of it some \$250,000. However, if we suggest other methods, we are told they smack of patronage and are subject to attack. It is something we have to look at. The criticism is well founded, but it does not come only from the hon. member.

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AIRPORTS

METHOD OF ALLOCATING CAR RENTAL CONCESSIONS— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. It has to do with car rental concessions at MOT airports. In allocating Tilden, the third highest overall bidder, to a domestic counter and forcing them to take fifth place in the allotment of these counters, is the minister not creating a second class citizen out of this domestic car rental agency?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, clearly not because the bid from Tilden which was accepted was in the domestic category. The ranking of counters was according to the value of the bids accepted, as had been stated in the pretending documents, and the Tilden bid was fifth.

Mr. Horner: As I understand the situation, Mr. Speaker, the Tilden bid was third in overall bidding for the nine airports. In many of the individual airports, it was third or better. Either the minister is not aware of the facts or he is misleading the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, let me try to help the hon. member understand the facts. The Tilden Company put in two bids, one in the open category and one in the domestic category. The bid which was accepted in the evaluation of the overall best returns from the car rental system, which is also dealt with in the pretending document, was the Tilden bid in the domestic category. That bid was fifth. The other bid would have ranked higher but it was not the accepted bid.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, the regulations put out by the minister when he called for tenders state as follows:

Oral Questions

Counter space within the terminal building will be leased to car rental concessionaires for the term of their agreement with the location preference in accordance with the offers received, i.e., the highest bidder will have the first choice, the second bidder will have the second choice, the third bidder will have the third choice, and so on.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

AMOUNT REQUESTED BY EMPLOYEES OF STATISTICS CANADA FOR INFORMATION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Yesterday the minister's parliamentary secretary admitted outside the House of Commons, consulting the minister's briefing book for his source of information, that StatsCan employees, whom we have been discussing in the minister's absence for the past few days, attempted to sell material to the National Capital Commission. Will the minister tell the House whether that statement is true and, if so, the amount requested in the offer to sell this information to the National Capital Commission?

● (1440)

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I very carefully read the answer given by the parliamentary secretary which is recorded in yesterday's *Hansard*. Unfortunately, I cannot find the information that the hon. member seems to have given. I should say that my predecessor had already answered such a question and the parliamentary secretary has taken a position that I approve in every way.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It is regrettable that the quality of the minister's answer did not match the quantity of applause that he received when he rose. My question was clear. There has been a statement made by his parliamentary secretary that this information was sold. That statement is made in the press today. It is not in *Hansard*. My question is, is that so? If the minister does not know the answer will he find out; and if it is so, what was the price asked for that information? That is the question.

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I was referring to the remarks made by the parliamentary secretary to the House of Commons and the information at my disposal. With regard to the amount disclosed outside the House, if the parliamentary secretary mentioned an offer of \$250, that is accurate and I can confirm it.