

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have not been personally in touch with any of the United States officials on this subject but I will gladly ask the minister if there has been any contact.

**LANARK INDUSTRIES, DUNNVILLE—ALLEGED THREATS IN PAST TO CLOSE PLANT WHEN FACED WITH DISPUTES**

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. Has the minister any information regarding previous threats by Lanark Industries of Dunnville, an American-owned corporation, to close down operations when faced with individual disputes in the past? If he has that information, would he give it to the House? If not, will he try to obtain it for us?

**Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will look into that. I do not have any information before me.

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**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**

**CONTINUANCE OF DESIGNATED REGIONS—POSITION OF PROVINCES—NATURE OF CONSULTATION—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I have some questions for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion arising out of his announcement this afternoon in which he told us that the extension of the program which he announced had been discussed with the provinces. Can he inform the House whether any provinces agreed to the policy of extension without asking for changes in the structure and application of the incentives program? Was there unqualified agreement by all provinces or only by one or two, as I suspect?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think there was any general answer. Some agreed to the renewal without modification; many suggested modifications. However, we decided we should keep the designated areas as they are until 18 months have elapsed.

**Mr. Lewis:** Can the minister briefly indicate what was the nature of the consultation? If the government had already made up its mind to make these extensions without bringing in changes either in the program or in the boundaries of the areas, what was the nature of these consultations with the provinces, or were they merely informed of the government's decision?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** No, Mr. Speaker. There was real consultation. We asked the provinces to comment on what we intended to do. Some indicated they wanted some changes in the designated areas. A few even suggested modification of the whole system. Those are the matters on which we will negotiate during the period which has been announced.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I take it I am to understand from the minister's reply that he asked for comments so

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that he could either ignore them or study them later rather than take them into account in his program, which is not very great federal-provincial co-operation. Would the minister undertake to table the correspondence between himself or his department and the provincial governments subject, of course, to the provincial governments agreeing that the correspondence or any documents exchanged with respect to the program he announced today be tabled?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I will take this question into consideration and consult with the provinces to learn what their opinions are.

[Translation]

**SIDBEC—INQUIRY RESPECTING GRANTS**

**Mr. Yvon L'Heureux (Chambly):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Has the Department of Regional Economic Expansion contributed, or will it be contributing in the near future to the establishment and expansion of the Sidbec steel works in Contrecoeur, which were inaugurated last Monday by the Premier of Quebec?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** I believe, Mr. Speaker, that a grant totalling some \$6 million has been offered to Sidbec. However, it is not quite sure that the grant will reach that amount as it will all depend on the work being completed before December 31, 1973.

• (1450)

[English]

**REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT ON ORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENT**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** May I ask the minister whether he is in receipt of the results of the study conducted into the organization of his department by the Canadian Council on Rural Development? If the minister has received such a report, will he table it in the House at the earliest opportunity?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** I will look into that, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

**CONTRECOEUR—CONTINUANCE OF SPECIAL AREA STATUS**

**Mr. Speaker:** Did the hon. member for Chambly have any other supplementaries for the minister?

**Mr. Yvon L'Heureux (Chambly):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. In the minister's statement to the House a few minutes ago, is the Contrecoeur area still part of the designated area.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.