

Oral Questions

would like to draw the Hon. Member's attention to the fact that the matter is a complex one and that it also requires the co-operation of these taxpayers in stating their entire income.

* * *

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**REGULATION AFFECTING PART-TIME AGRICULTURAL WORKERS**

Hon. John Wise (Elgin): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and is prompted because of the difficulty which certain Order in Council changes, or regulatory changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act, have caused part-time workers, particularly agricultural workers. Would the Minister tell us what consultation, if any, took place between his Department and agricultural producers prior to the regulatory change being made and prior to its inception date of January 1 of this year? What consultation, if any, took place?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, in this particular situation, as I pointed out to the House, I believe, two days ago, we were faced with the problem of a number of workers in the agricultural field not receiving the proper income security which other occupations would receive for comparable work. We brought forward these regulations, having had some discussions over the years about that particular implementation.

• (1500)

It has been brought to our attention since then that certain agricultural associations had difficulty implementing the program to the fullest extent, so we have undertaken some very serious negotiations, very ably aided by members of my caucus who represent agricultural areas. The Hon. Member for Essex-Kent and others have been meeting over the past two weeks with the Horticultural Society. I think we now have the problem well in hand and we will be making amendments to that order which will be satisfactory to the agricultural groups.

REQUEST THAT REGULATION BE SUSPENDED

Hon. John Wise (Elgin): Madam Speaker, I know consultations have gone on in the last few days. I also appreciate the fact that seven days are certainly better than 15 hours. But in view of the fact that certain agricultural producers have as many as 400, 500, sometimes 600 people working in the field at one time, and in view of the complications this causes for the producer, would the Minister give serious consideration to suspending this regulation for at least a 12-month period and begin serious negotiations and consultation with the people in the agricultural industry? Would he give serious consideration to that in view of the problems being caused?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): No, Madam Speaker. I believe it is important to maintain the protection afforded agricultural workers, and I

think that is a commitment we have made particularly because those workers are on the lower end of the income scale and therefore need that security we can provide. I do believe that the resolution to the problems which have been worked out in the consultations, providing a leeway of seven days, will be satisfactory and eliminate the paper work for the temporary workers. I think under those circumstances we can relieve the producers of further headaches. I also believe that is satisfactory to them.

* * *

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT**FILING OF OBJECTION TO REPORT OF COMMISSION FOR THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA**

Madam Speaker: It is my duty to inform the House that an objection signed by the Hon. Member for Provencher (Mr. Epp), the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight), the Hon. Member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta), the Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson), the Hon. Member for Simcoe South (Mr. Stewart), the Hon. Member for Erie (Mr. Fretz), the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie), the Hon. Member for Edmonton South (Mr. Roche), the Hon. Member for Simcoe North (Mr. Lewis) and the Hon. Member for Perth (Mr. Jarvis) has been filed with me pursuant to Section 20 of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, Chapter E(2), R.S.C. 1970 to the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Manitoba.

If the House agrees, I would suggest that we follow past practices and print the text of the objection as an appendix to today's *Votes and Proceedings*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Agreed.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**DESTRUCTION OF FILES**

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, on a point of order, I would like to supplement an answer I gave to a question in the House on February 17, 1983.

Madam Speaker: Order. The Hon. Minister may correct an answer but he may not supplement an answer. I do not know exactly what he wants to do but he may not supplement an answer.

Mr. Kaplan: Madam Speaker, on that basis I think I am entitled to continue because the supplement I want to add is in effect a correction.

Mr. Nielsen: Order, Madam Speaker.