Inquiries of the Ministry

HOUSING
POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio who is in charge of housing. On May 6, I believe, he indicated to the house that there was the possibility of a meeting with provincial representatives to discuss housing. Can the minister say which officials he will be meeting, and when these meetings are going to take place?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity of having one meeting with the Minister of Trade and Development of the province of Ontario which was both exploratory and instructive. I think the next priority will probably be piloting the bill through second reading, which I hope will take place some time next week. As soon as possible I want to come face to face with the ministers, but in the meantime I have written them all and had return communication from some.

REQUEST FOR GUIDELINES ON URBAN RENEWAL

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for that answer, which shows that we are on the move, but I should like to ask the minister whether he can assure the house that the government will give some indication with regard to its intention to establish guidelines in respect of public housing and urban renewal commitments before the house adjourns for the summer recess?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): I think that would be a reasonable assumption, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the minister to bring forward amendments to Bill C-192, which he hopes to pilot through the house next week?

[Translation]
LABOUR CONDITIONS
RETRAINING OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

Mr. Gaétan-J. Serré (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that unemployment is a matter of great concern these days, would the minister tell us whether he has taken the necessary steps to allow a greater number of unemployed to follow retraining courses this year?

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the funds allocated for the current year have been greatly in excess of the funds for the preceding year. At present we are considering our retraining program with the provinces. Our retraining program will be as great as the resources available within the total programs of the government permit.

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the government reconsider its decision with respect to trainees having to be in the labour force for three years prior to being eligible for benefits while training?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, this has been a matter of continuing discussion between the department and provincial ministers. We have not yet been convinced that this would be a desirable move. We want to give the members of the adult labour force the maximum opportunity for training and retraining. Many in our labour force went through the economic periods of the 1930's and 1940's without having had an opportunity for training. We have an obligation to the adult labour force, but we are also attempting to serve the needs of the young people. We are therefore asking for people to be in the labour force for a certain period before training allowances are granted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the numerous strikes throughout the country which may further aggravate the serious summer unemployment situation in regard to students, has the government any immediate, alternative plans which would assure students of summer employment? If so, will the minister be prepared to make an announcement of such plans at an early date?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have already spent quite a few minutes on this problem during this question period. When