

their transportation needs could be met. It is absolutely not true that this commission suggested that the transportation needs in isolated areas be disregarded. The commission has enunciated principles they suggest we use as a basis for a very thorough examination—and I think it is simply a question of respect for the work of a commission paid for with public money—of these recommendations before making a final decision.

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MANPOWER TRAINING

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Last night in Toronto, the Prime Minister announced there would be changes in the unemployment insurance system. He also announced that he would free \$300 million for manpower training. Could the minister tell the House today what these changes involve and how much of the \$300 million would go to Quebec?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, it should come as no surprise to the hon. member that the Prime Minister referred to a program that was made possible by Bill C-21, the amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act. The hon. member will recall that his party and his colleagues in the other place held up the bill and prevented its passage for more than a year. Thanks to this program, in the past three years we have been able to increase the amount of money used to help people get the training they need by 67 per cent. That is a very substantial increase. Stressing how important it is to provide training for Canadian workers, the Prime Minister indicated last night that the \$1.95 billion the government has currently invested in our labour force will be increased by \$1.2 billion. This increase will provide training for more unemployed workers who, as a result of industrial restructuring, must upgrade their skills. As for the details of the program, I have a statutory obligation to table this information in the House, and that will be done.

Oral Questions

• (1140)

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Madam Speaker, I may remind the minister that for the past three years, unemployment has been increasing daily, and millions of unemployed Canadians are no longer listed as such because they are no longer listed as being entitled to benefits. They are completely discouraged.

Will the minister make this announcement in the House as soon as possible? What he has done in this area so far has not changed the fact that unemployment is increasing daily. Will these new measures put people back to work, preferably as soon as possible?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, the hon. member will understand that the unemployment insurance budget run from January 1 to December 31, which is the current financial year. The amounts for the current financial year have not been changed by this announcement. However, as far as next year is concerned, the additional \$1.2 billion will be announced in the House as soon as possible. The recommendation for this increase, made by the labour force development commission, has been approved, and the details will be available to the House and to Canadians very shortly.

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[English]

TRADE

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, yesterday Mr. Justice Marshall Rothstein of the Federal Court of Canada, in the case of the referendum on national unity, ruled that the government "did not have reasonable grounds to withhold disclosure".

I ask the acting Prime Minister regarding the free trade agreement with the United States and Mexico, will the government finally release the documents, polls and studies it has done so that the people of Canada can know what the effects of this agreement will be?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Madam Speaker, we will be looking at the judgment by Mr. Justice Rothstein and taking the appropriate actions after we have had the opportunity to examine it closely. It came down yesterday.