

*Oral Questions*

**HEALTH**

**SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL MANPOWER—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ALLEVIATE**

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the critical shortage of medical manpower in many areas across Canada and the great dissatisfaction at the disparity in the delivery of medical services, and in view of the threatened cut-off, has the minister discussed this question with his provincial counterparts, and can he assure the House that this condition will be corrected?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for giving me notice. As I have said before, this question was discussed at the last meeting of federal-provincial health ministers and is being reviewed at the present time. I have asked my officials for a report concerning whether medical schools are planning to increase their intake in the coming fall, and when I receive a report I will certainly be very happy to let the hon. member know.

**Mr. Rynard:** Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the minister that I have some correspondence on this that will immediately enlighten him. Of 2,400 applicants, all qualified, 200 are being considered and only 40 will be chosen.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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**LABOUR RELATIONS**

**INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT STUDIES ON ALTERNATIVES TO STRIKES TO SETTLE DISPUTES**

**Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Has the Department of Labour any ongoing studies or is it conducting research into new and improved methods of adjudicating labour disputes with a view to developing alternatives to the painful and costly experience of strike action?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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**INFORMATION**

**LEGISLATION TO GUARANTEE SECURITY OF INFORMATION STORED IN DATA BANKS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice and it relates to the problem of protecting the privacy of Canadians in light of the disclosure that dossiers exist in American data banks on literally hundreds of thousands of Canadians and that the government cannot even guarantee the security of its own data banks. Could I ask the minister whether the legislation that he will be

[Mr. Gray.]

presenting, and which he has indicated is not yet ready, is awaiting a report on this matter by the Minister of Communications, which was referred to by the Prime Minister last week when he said of the Minister of Communications: "He has not yet brought to me or to cabinet any specific recommendations, but we are anxiously awaiting his report"?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the legislation to make effective security measures within government in regard to our own information will be coming forward. It will incorporate work that is being done at the interdepartmental level involving the Departments of Communications and Justice, among others, which are devising the draft rules that will apply to all information within governmental control.

**Mr. Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Is it correct to infer from the minister's answer that at the present time the government is concerned only with preparing legislation on the internal procedures within government and that the minister is preparing no legislation to deal with the problem of storage of data on Canadians in foreign data banks, though the government has been aware of this for two years now?

**Mr. Lang:** No, Mr. Speaker, that would not be a correct assumption. The most advanced work likely to lead to legislation at the earliest date is in the field I have just mentioned. A good deal of other work is going on, particularly in the Department of Communications, on the very serious technical questions that arise in connection with the control of computer information, whether in the hands of government or private sources. In addition, work is going on, in co-operation with the provinces, concerning the privacy of information or the right to privacy of individuals, the control of information in the hands of private institutions, and such other questions as what right a person ought to have to get access to information that is used against him. This very definitely involves provincial jurisdiction as well as federal jurisdiction and therefore this co-operation is essential.

● (1510)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members will realize that there are only five minutes until the end of the question period and there are some 25 or 30 members still seeking to ask questions. Rather than supplementaries and extended questions and replies every time a question is asked, I would think in all fairness to those hon. members who are waiting that questions should be brief.

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**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

**SUGGESTION THAT CANADA ENTERING HYPER-INFLATION PHASE—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the rate of inflation in some western European countries is now over 10 per cent and that the rate in the United States and Canada is increasing, can the minister