

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, March 1, 1967

The house met at 2:30 p.m.

### THE ROYAL ASSENT

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, March 1, 1967

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. J. R. Cartwright, M.C., puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 1st March, at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
A. G. Cherrier

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General

### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

#### FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

**Mr. H. E. Gray (Essex West):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the twenty first report of the standing committee on finance, trade and economic affairs.

[Translation]

It is said in this interim report that the committee refers back to the house the Act to amend the Bank of Canada Act, the new Bank Act, the new Quebec Savings Bank Act.

[English]

Thirteenth report of standing committee on public accounts—Mr. Hales.

[Note: Text of the foregoing reports appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.]

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### RETRAINING OF WORKERS LAID OFF BECAUSE OF AUTOMOBILE AGREEMENT

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday in response to a question from the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) I undertook to make a statement about workers who have been laid off in the automobile industry. I should emphasize that

the figures I have do not distinguish between lay-offs caused by reduced sales or similar factors and those that can be attributed to adjustments under the auto pact.

We know of a total of 5,732 people in the automobile and parts industries who have been laid off and not recalled in the course of the past 14 months; that is since January 1, 1966. Of this total, our information is that 3,063 are in other employment or have withdrawn, temporarily or permanently, from the labour force; 1,874 are registered for employment at various manpower centres; there are 795 of whom we have no current record, though we are doing our best to get in touch with them. Of the total of 1,874 now registered with manpower centres, 566 have been recommended for training courses and 296 are currently in training.

● (2:40 p.m.)

The reason the figure is not larger is that training facilities have been heavily strained in some centres, particularly Oshawa. Representations have been made to the provincial governments for the provision of increased facilities, and detailed discussions are now in progress between the manpower division and the Ontario department of education. We certainly hope this will result in increasing the training capacity available at Oshawa.

All Canada manpower centres in Ontario are making special efforts to bring the qualifications of autoworkers to the attention of prospective employers. Mobility grants are available to assist workers to move if necessary. It must be appreciated, however, that the automotive industry is a relatively high wage one and it cannot be expected that equivalent employment will be available quickly in all cases.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, this announcement by the Minister of Manpower and Citizenship points up the urgency of this whole situation. It points up the fact also that the government was not prepared to deal with this emergency. The minister has admitted that the government has been unable to cope with the retraining of these people so they might find useful employment in other industry. He mentioned that no facilities have been provided in Oshawa, the city in which most of the people affected are located.