

Oral Questions

I am asking him: Will he try to fill that gap with some and more of these women at risk with their children at risk?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the reason why Canada was unable to meet that target of \$13,000 is because of the situation in that part of the world which the hon. member well knows.

What we did instead was take 2,000 of this 13,000 target and speed up the admission to Canada of members of the families of refugees who have been determined as such in this country. That again was lauded by the UNHCR which thinks that Canada is doing a super job.

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[Translation]

MINING

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The Quebec mining industry eagerly awaits the signing of the next Canada-Quebec agreement on mineral development. Quebec and Canada are about to come to an agreement on tourism, regional development and forests. Has Quebec started negotiating with the federal government on a subsidiary agreement on mineral development for the mining sector?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we have indeed received authority from the Governor in Council to negotiate agreements, first on industrial development, forests and tourism, and that is what we are doing with the Government of Quebec. As for mining, Quebec had not originally given it particular priority. However, Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, tells me that he is in contact with the Quebec Minister of Mines and if that province expresses a particular interest, we will obviously be prepared to consider the question.

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[English]

PORT OF THUNDER BAY

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour.

The minister sent one of his officials to Thunder Bay last night to meet with both parties in the Lakehead grain elevator workers' dispute. At present it is unclear what role the official is playing.

Can the minister clarify for us what exactly Mr. Edmondson is doing in Thunder Bay, what he has reported to the minister to date on his discussions with both parties and, further, can he tell this House whether he is intending to introduce back-to-work legislation?

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I did send the director general of Labour Canada's mediation and conciliation service to Thunder Bay to assess the situation after having talked to the union leader and the lawyer representing the pools. Mr. Edmondson will get back to me later today.

My message to the parties in this dispute is that they should settle it themselves. My colleague is aware that over 90 per cent of work disputes in this country are settled through the collective bargaining process. We want them to settle and we want them to settle now.

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, the union wrote to the minister last night requesting that he use provisions available to him under the Canada Labour Code and appoint an industrial inquiry into the grain handling industry in Canada. There have been significant changes in this industry over the years. The last industrial inquiry in 1975 dealt only with the Vancouver port.

Will the minister agree in this House today to call an industrial inquiry into the grain handling industry? Also, would he look particularly to the sector in Thunder Bay to see if there is any way we can help this port with its difficulties in the future?

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I did speak to the union president, Mr. Daniher and he did bring up the subject of an industrial inquiry commission. He was quite specific in his conversation with me when he said: "Let's talk about this issue once this dispute is settled".

I would ask that all efforts at this time go into settling the dispute.