

deadline set by C.B.C. writers and performers, could the minister make a full statement with reference to this situation?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I shall take the question as notice.

[*English*]

### TRADE

#### MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT CANADA-U.S. MINISTERIAL MEETING

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** I should like to direct two questions to the Minister of Finance. Both deal with the agenda for the discussions in Washington on March 4 and 5 between representatives of Canada and the United States. The first has to do with the securities exchange commission. Is the question of the establishment of a national securities commission in Canada to be discussed with the United States in the light of the recommendations of the Porter commission? Second, does the agenda contemplate a discussion of the relationship between the national energy board and the federal power commission in the light of the obligation to move gas from western Canada to eastern Canada through the United States?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May I point out to the hon. member that the estimates of the Department of Finance will be considered later this afternoon and that the points raised in this question might be discussed at that time.

### TRANSPORT

#### REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATION OF RADIO OPERATORS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. R. Keays (Gaspé):** I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Having in mind the imminent danger of a staff shortage of radio operators would the minister impress on his colleague responsible for the Civil Service Commission the necessity for changing the structure of the class of the civil service commonly known as radio operators, this step having been delayed now for three years?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps this question could be placed on the order paper.

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

### FISHERIES

#### SEALS—INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries):** Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition addressed a question to the Prime Minister, asking whether there has been any effective change in the regulations so that Canadians may be assured that cruel and inhumane practices may end in the sealing industry.

As I have indicated in the house on previous occasions, there have been gross exaggerations in press articles referring to the inhumane killing of seals. With the advent of an air operation a few years ago, many persons who were inexperienced and new to the operation entered it and I have no doubt this could have resulted in some inhumane or improper practices. No experienced sealer would undertake to skin a live seal nor could it benefit him in any way to do so.

In this regard I have received in recent months a number of letters from S.P.C.A. officials, representatives of humane societies and others who have made a point of seeing for themselves the sealing operations in the gulf of St. Lawrence. All, almost without exception, have agreed that the Department of Fisheries has introduced effective changes in the regulations with a view to preventing any cruel and inhumane killing during the seal operation. It is also recognized that adequate measures have been introduced to preserve the seal herds for future profitable operations.

Only a few days ago I received a letter sent by the three major companies operating ships in the sealing industry in the Gulf area stating that a widely publicized film of sealing operations shows completely false scenes designed to create the impression that the sealing industry uses cruel and inhumane killing methods. Among the regulation amendments last year was a specific prohibition against skinning live seals. This regulation is, of course, continuing in effect during this year's operations. There are this year specific regulations designed to control killing methods.

In 1965 we had a specially selected team of fishery officers supervising the operation. Such a team will again be operating this year. Each sealing vessel will have an officer on board during the entire operation. Aircraft operations will be supervised by officers at land bases and on aircraft patrol. Representatives of conservation and humane societies