

Oral Questions

Quebec 400 cases went for the claimants and only 10 for the Department?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this is one of the few times I have heard an individual Member of Parliament argue against the judicial process. This process allows people to proceed through different levels of review and, Sir, that is taking place.

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HEALTH

WEST COAST RADIOACTIVITY REPORTS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock—North Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. People on the West Coast are understandably concerned about the reports of radioactive contamination of rainwater. The Minister has given both assurances and a caution on this subject. Can he take this opportunity to give us an update on the situation in order to reassure people out there?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as of this morning background radiation in the air in B.C. is down. That includes rainwater, and water in the Coquitlam reservoir. As far as milk is concerned, we are testing it daily. I note the B.C. Minister of Health has indicated there is no problem. We have found no traces in milk but we are testing daily as a precaution.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

CHANGE IN REGULATIONS—PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CAUCUS INQUIRY

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. If she thinks that the anger over her unemployment insurance cuts is going to go away, she is in for a big surprise. If she will not agree with Members on this side, or listen to the demonstrators outside, will she at least listen to Members of her own caucus? Does she disagree with the Conservative Member for Annapolis Valley—Hants who said if there was a vote in the Conservative caucus they would reject her policy?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this matter has been raised on a number of occasions and I will give exactly the same answer I have given on other occasions. This modification was introduced in November of 1984. At that time a one year lead time was given before implementation so people could adjust to the change in the regulations. There never was any question that it

would come into effect in January of 1986. That has taken place, and we will await the report of the commission headed by Mr. Forget to see whether any recommendations for changes are made.

REQUEST FOR FREE VOTE ON ISSUE

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. When we have the final votes on the Estimates will he allow or arrange for a free vote on this issue—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand:—so that we can once again test the integrity of the Conservative caucus and the spirit of the new rules in this House?

Mr. McDermid: You can do the same thing on Turner's leadership.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Standing Orders are quite clear in that regard. However, I would be a little concerned because I think we would probably have 39 different positions from the Liberal Party if we allowed that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: Try it.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

REPORTED PROPOSAL FOR THREE-DAY ALTERNATIVE MAIL DELIVERY

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the post office. Yesterday he said he would make public the new business plan for the post office after he made a decision. In light of the seriousness of the proposal for delivery every three days only, which will affect seniors, will he make that plan public now so we can have a debate, or is he going to force us to use the Access to Information law?

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I said yesterday. We are examining a lot of alternatives with the post office administration. Alternate day delivery is just one. Internal analyses are being done and, as soon as a decision is reached, it will be announced publicly.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION CONCERNING POSTAL SERVICES

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has simply indicated that he is considering several