

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State, Finance): Madam Speaker, I am aware of the situation. I would like to remind the hon. member that Re-Mor is a provincially chartered corporation which does not therefore come under federal jurisdiction. Reimbursing procedures under federal law are under way for those people who had invested in Astra corporation. As far as Re-Mor is concerned, the member must understand that from a legal standpoint we are dealing with a very complex issue and that with regard to criminal procedures the government of Ontario is doing its duty in view of the circumstances.

[English]

Mr. Kempling: Madam Speaker, I am aware that Re-Mor is under the control of the provincial government, but bankruptcy is a matter under the control of the federal government. The Re-Mor real estate company, which is an affiliate of Astra Trust, obtained a mortgage broker's licence from the government of Ontario after finance officials in the minister's department ascertained that Astra Trust was in financial trouble. Can the minister advise the House on the quality of communications between the officials of the government of Ontario and his department, because it is the opinion of those who have studied the matter that, had the communications been better, the losses suffered by the depositors could have been avoided.

[Translation]

Mr. Bussières: Madam Speaker, the hon. member is making very serious allegations. The information which the Superintendent of Insurance has provided me concerning this fully contradicts the hon. member's allegations.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DELIVERY OF CHEQUES TO RECIPIENTS

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Because the Minister of Employment and Immigration is absent, Madam Speaker, I shall direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. My question deals with the problem unemployment insurance recipients are facing following the various work stoppages which have occurred both last week and this week within our public service. I should like to know what special steps the department has taken to deliver the cheques to unemployment insurance recipients. What are these steps and when will the situation return to normal, because people in the various ridings have suffered over the past two weeks due to delays resulting from work stoppages within our public service?

Mr. Dennis Dawson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I should like to assure all hon. members that the situation is back to normal everywhere in Canada except Quebec, that the cheques

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will be delivered directly by mail, as provided for under our regulations, and that there is no backlog.

As far as the province of Quebec is concerned, because of the illegal work stoppages which have occurred over the past two weeks, there are some delays, but I can assure the hon. member that several thousands of cheques have been printed this week. This was not a problem of cheque distribution, but of cheque printing. The cheques were printed yesterday and today, and employment and immigration staff will be working this weekend to make up for lost time.

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[English]

ABORTIONS

BADGLEY REPORT—INQUIRY AS TO ACTION TO IMPLEMENT

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Within the last month in British Columbia, the boards of two major hospitals have done away completely with their therapeutic abortion committees, seriously reducing access to abortions—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):—where required for women in those communities. In view of the fact that the Badgley report, which was commissioned by a previous Liberal government, has recognized this as being a major weakness in existing legislation, and in view of the fact that the situation is so serious that doctors have threatened to remove their services entirely from at least one of these hospitals, what action does the government intend to take to implement the recommendations of the Badgley commission report and put an end to this threat to health care in our communities?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, any action would be untimely at this point. We have no intention of introducing any legislation in Parliament to amend the Criminal Code with regard to abortion.

[English]

CUTBACKS IN FUNDING TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, this makes a mockery of any suggestion that accessibility to abortion is free and equitable in this country, and I hope sincerely that the Minister of Justice will bring in the changes that were recommended.

My supplementary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare is as follows. The federal government has cut back substantially on its funding to the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada which is one of the leading proponents of safe, effective, contraceptive and sex education. Both recommenda-