

Oral Questions

liaison exist between his department and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development?

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Ministers have always cooperated in the past and they will do so in the future.

* * *

[*Translation*]

SOCIAL SECURITY**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION TO STUDY IMPLICATIONS OF GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME PROGRAMS**

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Since she is absent and my question dates back to October 19, I shall direct it to the Prime Minister. Since the Speech from the Throne clearly indicates that the government wants to look into the economic problems of families and individuals and in view of the hardships faced by disadvantaged people who receive meagre welfare allowances and older citizens who live in slums where maintenance costs for their homes are eroding their pensions, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether the Minister of National Health and Welfare—

Some hon. Members: Question, question!

Mr. Lavoie: Couldn't you let me speak?

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member has a question, he should put it immediately.

Mr. Lavoie: Could the Prime Minister tell the House whether the Minister of National Health and Welfare has informed him that she intends eventually to appoint a parliamentary committee to study the implications of guaranteed annual minimum income programs? If so, when will she do so, and if not, for what reasons will she not?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is expressing a major concern shared by the government. As for the parliamentary committee he is enquiring about, I do not recall the minister informing me of that project, but I will make sure to ask her and give an answer to the hon. member.

* * *

[*English*]

CUSTOMS**SUGGESTED INCREASE IN STAFF AT UNITED STATES-BRITISH COLUMBIA BORDER POINTS**

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Revenue. It has to do with the recurring problem of long line-ups at the Douglas border crossing point due to erratic and inadequate staffing there. Line-ups are sometimes two or three miles long and the problem is so acute that some Canadians find them-

[Mr. Fraser.]

selves obliged to stay in the United States overnight, which is a whale of a way to help the balance of payments situation. When does the minister intend to take this question seriously and provide adequate staffing at the Douglas border crossing point?

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue): I shall be pleased to consider the hon. member's representation, Mr. Speaker. I should like also to tell him that he does not need to come into the House to make representations because he can be in full communication with me on a daily basis. But I shall be glad to look into this matter and I shall be in contact with him further.

Mr. Friesen: The same problem exists for small businessmen who want to do business with entrepreneurs in the United States. They have to wait in the long room beside the Pacific Highway for two or three hours before they can get their business done. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce say there is nothing wrong with doing business across the border. Will he look into that aspect of the matter to make sure that the small businessman can transact his business at the border within a reasonable amount of time?

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): This is an important matter and one which I am looking into at present. But people have to realize that there can be delays from time to time when they are crossing international boundaries.

* * *

SPORTS**DATE OF TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT—POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport. In view of the apparent enthusiasm which the minister brings to her portfolio—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Halliday:—and the fact that she indicated outside the House last night that she was disappointed that no questions had been directed to her so far this session—

An hon. Member: Does she have any answers?

Mr. Halliday:—may I refer the minister to section 13 of the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act which requires the minister, within three months of the end of the fiscal year, to bring an annual report before parliament indicating the work which has been done and the moneys which have been spent as well as the commitments which have been made during the year. May I ask the minister whether she has complied with the requirements of the act and if not, why not, and when we can expect to receive the report?