

department is now drafting? Is that clear? Are there to be any loopholes? If there are to be any loopholes, what are they?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there will be any loopholes. The safeguards that were announced by my colleague in December will be implemented with respect to all these bilateral arrangements with other countries. The only point that I would like to check further is the form of these agreements. My understanding is that agreements will be required in each particular case.

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SPORTS

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ATHLETES PREPARING FOR OLYMPIC GAMES

Mr. Gus MacFarlane (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is he indicating a personal interest and is his department working on investigating on behalf of our athletes who might participate in the olympics? These athletes may find themselves deferring education. The athletes may have financial and personal difficulties. Can they count on this government to give them special assistance as they prepare and work for the olympics and will this be followed up after the olympics?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, following a meeting with a certain number of athletes, I asked my department to make a careful investigation of all individual cases. That investigation is practically concluded. I am meeting with my officials this very afternoon on this subject and expect certain recommendations to be put to me. I hope I will be able to come to the help of those who are really in need.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST FOR OFFICES AT CHAPAIS AND CHIBOUGAMAU

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

In view of the fact that the population of Chibougamau-Chapais, now numbering 21,000 people, must travel over 200 miles in order to get to the nearest unemployment insurance office, in Alma, could the Minister tell us if steps will soon be taken for the establishment of a local office or of an information centre either in Chapais or in Chibougamau?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will note the hon. member's concern and look into the matter to see what can be done.

Oral Questions

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REASON FOR RESHOWING OF PROGRAM, "ENCOUNTER WITH CANCER"

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. In the minister's capacity as being responsible for the CBC, did he communicate to the proper executives of the CBC the concern of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Canadian Medical Association and the National Cancer Institute about the re-showing of the program which indicated that the drug laetrite may be a helpful cure for cancer?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated before, representations that I received from a variety of sources about that particular program were transmitted to the corporation. I also believe it is correct to say that the Minister of National Health and Welfare spoke directly to the president of the corporation.

Mr. Gillies: Can the Secretary of State advise the House the possible reason the executive of the CBC gave for showing the program in spite of all the indications from authorities that this program could do immense damage to people who may be suffering from cancer?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, It is not a new doctrine that the corporation is entirely responsible for decisions of programming. That is a principle that has been respected on both sides of the House ever since the corporation was set up. On its behalf, I should like to table a statement covering the reasons for showing the program the second time.

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● (1450)

AGRICULTURE

HOGS—REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION WITH PRODUCERS ON IMPORTS AND DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING EXPORT PERMITS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the provincial hog marketing agencies of the three prairie provinces have asked the minister, through telegrams, letters and phone calls for some time now, for a rehearing at which they would like to discuss the importation of hogs into Canada, as well as the difficulty that they are experiencing in obtaining export permits from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, would the minister indicate whether he is planning to meet with representatives of these agencies, and will he be able to give them an indication of the government's position on the two issues I have mentioned?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I know some representations have been made. The deputy minister of agriculture recently made a tour of the western provinces and met with the deputy ministers of the provinces. I was in touch with him just before coming into the House today. I point out that we have not filled our quotas for the export of hogs to the United States at the present time. Indeed, there is a shortage of