

Inquiries of the Ministry

are masters of the illusionary pricing technique, and often control products from farm to store shelf to the detriment of the consumer and, if so, would he consider making a grant available so that this booklet could be widely distributed across Canada?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that a question such as this one should normally be put on the order paper. But the question has been asked and the minister might reply briefly because we have almost run out of time.

Hon. Robert X. Andras (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, now that the hon. member's comment and the booklet have been brought to my attention, I will examine them with great interest.

Mrs. MacInnis: If, on examination, the minister does not want to do this, will he consider an investigation into the control by the supermarkets of products from farm to grocery shelf?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is a hypothetical question or a representation.

Mrs. MacInnis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, this is not a representation. It is a question that I am asking. I am asking if the minister will conduct an investigation into the control by supermarket chains of products from farm to grocery shelf? There is a question mark at the end of that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I suggest that my impression, gained over the years, is that all representations have a question mark at the end when they are made during the question period.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

QUEBEC—DELAY IN PAYMENT OF BENEFITS—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Is he aware that many persons, unemployed for the past three months, have not yet received their unemployment insurance benefits? If so, would the minister advise us whether this delay is due to a lack of funds on the part of the commission or to the incompetence of the central office civil servants in Montreal?

[English]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if there is any incompetence it is on the part of the hon. member in not bringing one specific case to my attention sooner so that I could have intervened personally.

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

DISPUTE WITH NABET—TELEGRAM FROM UNION REQUESTING MINISTER OF LABOUR TO REVIEW NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Has he received a telegram from NABET requesting him to review the negotiation proceedings between that organization and the CBC and, if so, what was his answer?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): I have received that telegram, Mr. Speaker, and I am giving consideration to it.

Mr. Alexander: In view of the lengthy time that negotiations have been proceeding without having come to any conclusion, will the minister speed up his review so that his thoughts can be made known to the parties in the very near future—tomorrow, let us say?

Mr. Speaker: Again I suggest that this is a suggestion or representation. We have just about run out of time, but before calling orders of the day the Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. John's East for a last question.

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CANADA LABOUR CODE

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF AMENDMENT DEFINING FISHERMEN AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS—CONSULTATION WITH CERTAIN PROVINCES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Has he consulted with the provinces of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and British Columbia on the provisions of Bill C-183—I am thinking especially of clause 107(1)—has he also consulted with the fishermen and, if not, will he do so?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, there have been very extensive consultations with the fishermen and the Fisheries Council. The standing committee is currently sitting and has heard both of those bodies. I am not in a position to answer this afternoon on whether or not there were consultations with the provinces.

• (1500)

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): A supplementary question. Is the minister of the opinion now that there is dual jurisdiction with respect to fishermen and bargaining?

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to give a legal opinion on that question. We obviously took the position when we introduced the provisions in the bill that there was federal jurisdiction, and we intend to proceed on those grounds unless and until challenged.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.