

ticular man in my last answer. I have not been told that the evidence has been supplied to the National Energy Board. I will be pleased to check with the Board, to learn why the meeting has not been arranged.

Mr. Beatty: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his offer. The president of CTW wrote to the secretary of the National Energy Board. In the letter, a copy of which was sent to the Minister, he said:

CTW certainly wishes to co-operate in a further, and complete, investigation into safety on the TransCanada Pipelines. In that regard, we would request that a representative from the Energy Board arrange to meet with Rudi Carter, W-5 Field Producer. At that time, Mr. Carter will turn over evidence he has received concerning the pipeline.

In view of this, why has the minister not followed up before now, to ensure that the meeting takes place? Will the minister, when he reports back to the House, indicate whether he feels the decision of the chairman of the National Energy Board to issue this news release on Tuesday in which he stated that all allegations had been investigated and found to be completely false was in any way justifiable?

● (1450)

Mr. Gillespie: I have already said I will take up this matter.

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POST OFFICE

ABUSIVE LETTERS FROM UNION TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES— POSSIBLE ACTION TO REINSTATE EMPLOYEES AS UNION MEMBERS

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the Postmaster General. I wish to ask whether he is aware that employees of certain post offices which did not receive the ballot during the last strike have since received very abusive and insulting letters from the Postal Workers' Union, letters which really come very close to being the subject of some kind of criminal investigation?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): The hon. member, with his usual courtesy, showed me one of these letters. I hope it did not come from the president of the local because it is a letter which reflects a very sick mind. The letter was unsigned, so I would not want to say that it was written by the president of the local. If it were, I can only say that it is a sad day for labour when any local should fall into the hands of such a sick person. On the positive side, I can assure the hon. member and many people across this country that the workers who crossed the picket lines and went back to work because they had the courage of their convictions and because there was no mechanism by which they could express their opinions democratically, can work secure in the knowledge that their job security, their promotions and their grievances will be processed just as though they were members of the union.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Malone: I thank the Postmaster General for his response. In cases where post offices did not receive bal-

Oral Questions

lots, is the Post Office Department doing anything to ensure that the postal workers concerned can continue to be members of the union ongoing since a number of them were disenfranchised or had their entitlement removed?

Mr. Mackasey: I must remind the hon. member that the constitutions of all unions, including that particular union, provide for an appeal against suspension. It is not automatic. People who are suspended have the right to appeal. Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of the members of that union are decent people and the advice I can give to the members who were disenfranchised, either accidentally or intentionally, is to appeal the suspension and let the public see precisely the degree of democracy or lack of democracy that exists in that local.

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[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES ON DECLARATION OF BILINGUAL DISTRICTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Serge Joyal (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the President of the Treasury Board.

Considering that the report of the Bilingual Districts Advisory Board was tabled in the House on November 21, 1975, and that pursuant to the Official Languages Act, 90 days must elapse between the tabling of the report and the proclamation of bilingual districts, can the President of the Treasury Board tell the House whether he has finished his consultations with the groups concerned and the provinces, and whether he intends to proclaim bilingual districts on February 21, 1976, as the act requires?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the act does not require that we proclaim them after 90 days, it only gives us authority to do so. We do not intend to proceed immediately, because we have not consulted all the persons who want to make representations to us on that matter.

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HOUSING

REQUEST THAT ANTI-INFLATION BOARD PREVENT INCREASE IN PRICE OF LUMBER

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

Can the minister tell the House whether he is aware that the price of lumber, and especially structural lumber, has increased by 40 to 45 per cent since December 1? If so, would he request those in charge of the Anti-Inflation Board to attend to the matter and put an end to it, or at least improve the situation, with a view to achieving the objective he announced to the House, namely the construction of thousands of new homes?

[English]

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I am not in agreement with the precise figures