

Oral Questions

[Translation]

POST OFFICE

STRIKE OF INSIDE WORKERS—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General.

Considering that collective bargaining between department officials and union leaders ended nearly one week ago, could the minister advise the House as to the current situation after the negotiations broke off and indicate how many post offices are now providing services to the public? Could the minister bring us up to date on the situation which has developed since last Friday?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think that at least 87 post offices are now open throughout Canada. This compares favourably with last Friday, when only 40 were open. We intend to serve the Canadian public, even in small communities where people have as many rights to be served as those living in larger centres like Montreal and Toronto.

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[English]

OLYMPIC GAMES

SUGGESTION THOSE WHO WEAR EYEGLASSES NOT HIRED AS GUIDES—REQUEST FOR ACTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Perhaps the acting minister or the parliamentary secretary can answer. Can parliament be assured that it is not the policy of COJO, or anybody else for that matter connected with the Olympic Games, to discriminate against guides to be selected for the Olympic Games only because they happen to wear eyeglasses? Will the minister repudiate that obviously insensitive, sexist and outrageous statement?

Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the minister, I think, will want to answer this question, I shall bring it to his attention.

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the parliamentary secretary cannot make up his mind. May I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour? Will the minister undertake as head of his department to make sure that such an outrageous statement or idea, no matter by whom perpetrated, is repudiated by the government of Canada?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, yes, I will be happy to consult with the Minister of National Health and Welfare and have both departments look into the matter.

[Mr. Gillespie.]

AGRICULTURE

EGGS—REASON FOR PRICE INCREASE

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, may I direct my question to his parliamentary secretary? Considering CEMA's assertion on November 4, 1975, "that the pricing for eggs in this country is at the present time based primarily on a cost of production factor formula", and considering that today's *Globe and Mail* informs us that the cost of production seems to be coming down, can the parliamentary secretary tell the House why the price of eggs went up one cent a dozen this week in Toronto?

[Translation]

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency sets the average cost of eggs over four weeks. In addition to feeding, other factors must be considered such as salaries, interest and all other indirect expenses.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL FROM UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMS IN VIEW OF RESOLUTION NAMING ISRAEL RACIST NATION

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Further to the excellent motion introduced in this House by the right hon. member for Prince Albert, can the minister assure the House that the government is, indeed, prepared to withdraw from the Ghana conference, and perhaps the decade against racism program, should the United Nations general assembly not alter its position on the vicious resolution passed earlier this week?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, replying to the question raised by the hon. gentleman, if Zionism is to be an object of UN activities relating to racism, it will clearly and manifestly not be possible for Canada to play its proper role in such activities. I say this with regret, because racism is one of the scourges of our time, one which, in its genuine application, we are prepared to join other countries in resisting.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: However, we are not prepared to associate Canada with a judgment in which the presumption of innocence is denied and for which we do not believe evidence would be found which would justify the decision reached by the General Assembly of the United Nations has reached. As our permanent representative said at the United Nations, the resolution on zionism is not only objectionable in itself, but also taints two other resolutions which we would otherwise have wholeheartedly supported both in voting and in action. I refer, of course, to the resolution on the decade on racial discrimination and the