

Oral Questions

will be discussing the matter with the Minister of Finance in this context.

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CANADA LABOUR CODE**HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION FOR URANIUM MINERS**

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Madam Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that uranium miners in Elliot Lake and elsewhere are not given adequate protection under either part 4 of the Canada Labour Code or the new draft federal health and safety legislation—an opinion apparently shared by the Minister of State for Mines—and considering that the legislation now being drafted is admittedly based on Ontario's bill C-70, and that the Ontario legislation was largely based upon input from and concerns relating to uranium miners specifically at Elliot Lake—the very group now excluded from protection along with other miners in the uranium industry—will the minister of Labour now give a commitment to the House that he will either turn the jurisdiction of this area over to the provinces, or guarantee that his new federal legislation will offer at least equal protection to uranium miners as that provided by bill C-70 in Ontario with respect to the right to refuse unsafe work, submission to monthly inspections, worker appeal procedures and union escorts for inspectors?

In addition, just when can we expect to see this vital legislation introduced?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): I thank the hon. member for the question, Madam Speaker. May I say to the hon. member that we have set a time period in which to achieve regulations that would incorporate all the provisions of the Ontario bill C-70, and if that does not work out to be satisfactory, then at that moment in time we will take other action.

At the present time, and under the present laws, people working under federal jurisdiction can refuse work because of unsafe conditions; but the present situation in relation to the uranium miners, as the hon. member mentioned, is that they are covered by the referencing by the federal government of the previous Ontario act. The new Ontario act that was passed last fall could have been referenced at that moment in time, but it was the request of the trade union that it work with the department to attempt to draft specific federal regulations that would give exactly the same provisions.

There has been some controversy between some union officials and the department as to whether the intervention of the Department of Justice will give the exact result that they want. We are attempting to resolve that matter. But I certainly give the hon. member assurance that we will see to it that the provisions for the safety of uranium miners in Ontario under federal jurisdiction are as high as they would be under provincial jurisdiction, or as high as they are anywhere else in the country under federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Kristiansen: Madam Speaker, I thank the minister for his reply. I am wondering, though, whether he can give us a more firm commitment as to the timespan in which we can expect this legislation to be introduced. I understand that there have been some disagreements as to who was responsible for the so-called dragging of feet. I think that matter has been clarified, at least in the press, and I believe that the minister will now agree with the position of the union on that, that its representatives have not really been responsible for the time lag that has occurred.

I also want to be assured that the minister appreciates that when it comes to the matter of workers—

An hon. Member: Speech.

An hon. Member: Question.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Perth.

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GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING**SAVINGS FROM CENTRALIZED PURCHASING OF ADVERTISING SPACE AND TIME**

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism who, in addition to his awesome responsibilities, is in charge of government advertising. My question relates to his press release of May 9.

I compliment the minister for his announcement of the continuation of a centralized purchasing agency for government advertising, an initiative of the previous government. The previous government estimated the savings, through the centralization of purchase, to be anywhere from 20 per cent to 40 per cent of the previous budget. Would the minister indicate to the House his target for savings under the centralized purchasing of advertising space and time?

Hon. Jim Fleming (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his good words about our plans for advertising in the Government of Canada. I cannot give a hard figure. I suppose the easiest answer would be that we are going to save every dollar we can. But I estimate between \$2 million and \$4 million. Our officials are more optimistic than that.

Mr. Jarvis: Madam Speaker, I do not want to be too platitudinous, but the previous government estimated savings of something like \$15 million and I would encourage the minister to seek that target as a minimum.

Because the minister's press release indicated a fair geographic and linguistic distribution, because the minister is well aware that Toronto and Montreal agencies have had virtually 100 per cent of the advertising pie, and because there is no commitment in this press release, may I ask the minister: what is this government's policy toward the distribution of advertising space and time among those agencies that are not happily