

## Oral Questions

● (1442)

**Miss Bégin:** No.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** They are under somebody's responsibility. Having regard to what the minister has said—and I am not going to get involved in a debate here—is the minister aware of the study on privacy and computers, a task force of her own government, that stated in its recommendations as follows:

—it is important to ensure that a single identifying number—

Or a social insurance number.

—should not be adopted in Canada, directly or indirectly, without a full examination and public debate of its merits and consequences.

Does the minister accept the recommendation that before there is an expansion beyond social security programs, parliament should be consulted?

**Mr. MacEachen:** It has been.

**Miss Bégin:** As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, and I thought the hon. member would have checked that, my office told him the SIN number is under the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I am the minister responsible for social policy and programs in the name of the Canadian taxpayer.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Miss Bégin:** I am accountable for a budget of \$14 billion. I am not shocked by the use of a number that permits control of funds, that are the funds of the Canadian taxpayer going to those in need. I will continue this policy of control.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## POST OFFICE

## ALLEGED SABOTAGE AT TORONTO TERMINAL

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that reports indicate, including personal phone calls to me by a number of serious and dedicated members of Toronto's CUPW union, that an intensive and expensive sabotage program at Toronto's main postal terminal is under way, initiated by a few radical union leaders, causing not only extensive damage to the post office but to the mails, and the jamming of machines directing mail to other cities, could the minister advise this House whether he is aware of the sabotage tactics and what he intends to do to rectify this very serious and damaging problem now being experienced in Toronto?

**Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the facts mentioned by the hon. member. According to the reports I have to date, postal work is going normally. If there is an intention of sabotage, we are not aware of it. If it happens, we will take the proper measures to correct it.

[Mr. Hnatyshyn.]

## PUBLIC SERVICE

## POLICY RESPECTING SECTOR BARGAINING IN LABOUR DISPUTES

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I will convey to the Postmaster General the messages I have received.

On a related matter, I would like to put my supplementary question to the Acting Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that the fragmentation of union power within each essential public service sector contributes dramatically not only to postal strikes but to other essential service strikes, air lines being a good example, could the minister advise this House whether or not the government is now prepared to reduce the number of bargaining points within these sectors and introduce what is known as sector bargaining, which I know would receive widespread support including support from a number of unions?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Acting Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious question that is under consideration. I think it is too early to give any indication of this.

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[Translation]

## FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

## FEDERAL MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE SOVEREIGNTY ASSOCIATION WITH PROVINCES

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the right hon. Prime Minister.

The media reported recently a shocking statement of the Leader of the Opposition that if he were Prime Minister of the country he would negotiate sovereignty association with the PQ government if 60 per cent of the Quebec population supported their government in the referendum.

[English]

I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he would inform this House whether, given the present constitutional arrangements which he is presently trying to renew and the fact that we must base these renewed constitutional arrangements on the fact that Canada remains a federation, the Prime Minister considers that any federal government or its leader would, or could, have a mandate to negotiate sovereignty association with Quebec or any other province on a bilateral basis.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not know that any leader has been given the mandate to negotiate sovereignty association with any government in the country. Certainly, I have not been given such a mandate, nor would I intend to ask one. If the Leader of the Opposition intends asking for such a mandate, I hope he will make it clear during the election campaign.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!