

Tabling of Documents

various dimensions of the legislation and call witnesses to make sure that Members of Parliament from all sides of the House have a full opportunity to examine the proposal which I put forward. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that I put that draft Bill before the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections last June and that that committee had a chance to look at the draft legislation before I brought it forward.

In addition, Bill C-55, an Act to amend the Immigration Act, will be brought forward. I would like to see what progress we make with these Bills. This would be the sequence of Bills as I see it for the foreseeable future unless there are circumstances that lead me to change the order of business. It may be, for example, that in the course of the next few days, we will be able to bring forward the motion with respect to the reference to the Finance Committee of the bank matter and I would hope that we can get that done at an early date so that the work of the committee can be organized and all Members will have an opportunity of examining in detail the circumstances leading up to the statement made by the Minister of State for Finance (Mrs. McDougall) on September 1.

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POINT OF ORDER

WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT
UNDER S.O. 31

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, on a separate point of order, I would like to ask your permission to withdraw a notice that I filed with you earlier this day requesting an emergency debate. The response by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Fraser) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) today that the defective fish will be withdrawn from the shelves of all stores satisfied the requirements that I had sought to have satisfied.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

PRESENTATION OF FOURTH REPORT OF STRIKING COMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Dick (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the Fourth Report of the Striking Committee under Standing Order 75(A).

[Editor's Note: For above-mentioned report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

SOCIAL SECURITY**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT**

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):

Mr. Speaker, we have all recognized that one of the major problems facing the country today is the number of Canadians on welfare rolls who are ready, willing and able to work. This fact cannot be measured simply in financial terms. It must also take into account the human price that is paid by too large a number of Canadians who are forced into this situation. I am pleased to report that I have concluded an agreement with my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald), and with our colleagues from all the provinces and Territories on action that we shall take together to break this deadly cycle of welfare dependency. Together we are going to provide hope and encouragement to these people, but above all we are creating for them the opportunities they deserve.

Two of the seven points of the agreement refer to programs that are the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I will give a brief explanation of each of them. First, we agreed to specify participation levels for social assistance recipients in the Canadian jobs strategy. This is in response to a long-standing concern of the provinces that employable people receiving social assistance have not been getting their fair share of places in the employment programs of Employment and Immigration Canada.

Employable social assistance recipients make up about 30 per cent of the total unemployed population. By contrast, rough estimates suggest that employable social assistance recipients did not make up 30 per cent of the participants in CEIC programs under the previous Government. It is this situation that we have agreed to address.

Of the six components of the Canadian jobs strategy, three can potentially benefit employable social assistance recipients. They are job entry for those entering the labour force, targeted mainly on youth and women; job development, targeted mainly on the disadvantaged, and the innovations program fund for pilot projects. I will deal with this component in more detail in a moment.

Our objective in negotiating the agreement was to ensure that employable social assistance recipients would have access to a share of Canadian jobs strategy funds that reflects their representation among the jobless. At the same time, we recognize the importance of maintaining flexibility in setting participation levels, both by province and by component, of the Canadian jobs strategy.

Under the agreement, my colleague and I will negotiate appropriate participation levels with each province and Territory to take effect April 1, 1986. Second, we agree to use a portion of the innovations program funds for pilot projects aimed at enhancing the employability of social assistance recipients. We did this because we recognized that many social assistance recipients face multiple barriers to securing employment and hence gaining self-sufficiency. Traditional welfare programs have not been designed to address the problem of