

Oral Questions

Mr. Stanfield: If the minister says we are entitled, why does he not tell the House the government's policy? I admit he may want to keep certain cards with regard to the specific elements involved in restraint if he is going to have discussions with business and labour. Has the minister any reason for withholding from this House his policy? In a general way, what kind of consensus is he reaching? Is the minister just going to fool around while the rate of inflation continues to run rampant?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member of course does not understand the process we are trying to achieve. There is no consensus in advance. We are trying to achieve consensus by first exploring with the various sectors of the economy what in their view a reasonable position would be in exercising a mutual restraint. I described the process in the budget speech. As it matures, I intend to keep the House fully informed because obviously the process cannot succeed unless the House is fully apprised of the situation.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**ALLEGED DISQUALIFICATION OF UNILINGUAL RECIPIENTS—
SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since Unemployment Insurance Commission agents seem to have authority, under the existing Unemployment Insurance Act, to disqualify a person receiving allowances because this person is unilingual and lives in an area where the working language is not his or hers, could the minister tell the House whether he will propose an amendment providing that the bona fide receiver be not disqualified because he or she speaks French or English only?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for drawing this very interesting situation to my attention. This is the first I have heard of it. I would be grateful if the hon. member would supply details, such as names and dates. I will be pleased to look into it and do whatever I can to correct what seems to be an improper situation.

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES**ALLEGED DENIAL OF ACCESS TO MATERIAL RELATING TO
NORRIS INQUIRY INTO SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—
INSTRUCTIONS OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR**

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister responsible for reporting to this House for the National Archives. What possible reason is there for denying public access to material, documents or transcripts of the report of the Norris commission respecting the SIU which closed its testimony 10 years ago?

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that. I would like to reflect on it. I will be in touch with the hon. member.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. What instructions have been given to the deputy minister of labour to determine who is eligible to examine the material on the SIU from the Norris commission which is in the National Archives?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the instructions at the moment. I will be pleased to check into the matter and advise the hon. member.

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FINANCE**DENIAL OF ELIGIBILITY OF SAVINGS BONDS FOR REGISTERED
RETIREMENT PLANS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. In view of a recent ruling of the Department of National Revenue which prevents certain issues of Canada savings bonds as eligible investments for inclusion in Registered Retirement Savings Plans, is the minister considering amendments to the Income Tax Act to remedy this situation which might adversely affect a significant number of Canadians?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that as notice and consult with the Department of National Revenue.

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AIR CANADA**REFUSAL TO PAY SALARIES OF EMPLOYEES SUMMONED
BEFORE LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Ian Watson (Laprairie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour and relates to the position taken by Air Canada at two recent Labour Relations Board hearings in Montreal in the case of M. J. Morrison vs Air Canada in which Air Canada refused to pay salaries of employees summoned before the Canada Labour Relations Board in violation of the internal regulations of Air Canada which require payment of salary to employees absent from work because they have been subpoenaed to court. Will the minister undertake to make representations to the president of Air Canada concerning this discriminatory attitude on the part of Air Canada?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to take up this matter with my colleague, the Minister of Transport, and his officials to find out what this is all about. I will pursue the matter to the best of my ability.