

## Oral Questions

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

## SUGGESTED AID TO SCHOOLS IN CONVERTING TO METRIC SYSTEM

**Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It is a redirection of a question I asked the Secretary of State earlier and follows upon some informal discussion with the Secretary of State. Is the minister giving any consideration to launching an aid program throughout Canada to assist school and college boards in meeting the cost of implementing the changeover to the metric system?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** The answer to the question is no, Mr. Speaker. I think those questions are properly the province of the provinces. However, I hope early in the new year to be able to introduce a resolution dealing with the whole program on metric conversion, but I do not want to anticipate the debate at that time.

\* \* \*

## HOUSING

## DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF CRITERIA FOR FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR GRANT TO FIRST TIME HOME PURCHASERS

**Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister in charge of housing, but since he has unavoidably left the chamber perhaps his parliamentary secretary could give me the answer. My question concerns the \$500 housing grant for families building a house for the first time. When will the criteria for this plan be made known and put into effect?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Acting Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question and draw it to the attention of the minister.

\* \* \*

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## GARRISON PROJECT—POSSIBLE REFERENCE IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT FORD

**Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In his recent talks with the President of the United States, did the President of the United States at any time bring up the question of the Garrison project of North Dakota?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not feel empowered to speak on behalf of the President of the United States, but I might satisfy the hon. member by telling him that this matter was brought up by myself in the presence of the President, and I asked him to consider very seriously the representations that I made on behalf of Canada.

[Mr. Ellis.]

● (1620)

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

PROPERTY AT JERICO BASE, BRITISH COLUMBIA—  
POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGE FOR PROVINCIALLY-OWNED LAND

**Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. It is a current question on an old topic, concerning federal lands at Base Jericho in Vancouver. In the hope of helping the minister to avoid another battle of Jericho, I should like to ask whether the federal government has given any consideration to the disposal of the remaining Jericho lands and, in particular, are there now or have there been any negotiations between the federal government and the government of British Columbia concerning the proposal to exchange the remaining DND property at Jericho Base in Vancouver for provincially owned land in the area of the DND base Chilliwack?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** No, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge the Jericho matter was settled some months ago. I do not believe there are current negotiations.

\* \* \*

## AIR CANADA

## EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE SITUATION IS IMPROVING

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Acting Minister of Transport. Has he been looking into labour-management problems in Air Canada and keeping in close contact with his colleague, the Minister of Labour? If so, will he assure the House that matters are improving in this regard?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** In terms of the immediacy of the question, Mr. Speaker, I can merely take it as notice. I might say, however, from past experience, the kind of liaison to which the hon. member refers is a regular part of the consultations between Air Canada and the ministry of transport. I will be glad to look into the matter and get additional information for the hon. member.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to rise on a point of order but I do so to draw to your attention that today once again, as on so many other occasions, hon. members in this House have been denied the right to obtain answers to very important questions in the field of transportation. We are unable to illicit any policy from this government in the field of transportation. The minister has been absent for a number of days and there has not been another minister designated to answer the day by day questions that arise in the House. I must say that even when the minister is here the situation is not improved very much.

We have had the first piece of legislation relating to transportation introduced in the House today. There are no less than 10 commitments in respect of transportation