

● (1500)

LACK OF A-VICTORIA MONOVALENT VACCINE—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): My supplementary question deals with the fact that elderly people and those with chronic illnesses are still being given the bivalent vaccine which contains the swine flu vaccine and there is no A-Victoria monovalent vaccine available. Can the minister tell the House whether he has taken any action whatsoever to encourage or bring about the production of the A-Victoria vaccine which would enable older people to obtain flu vaccination without getting the swine flu vaccine as well?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, there is presently no A-Victoria vaccine available in the world. It would take several weeks, to say the least, to produce such a vaccine. In the meantime, we will wait for the result of the investigation in the United States to see if there is any relationship between swine flu vaccine and the ill effects which have been reported.

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

POSSIBILITY OF LOCATING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT IN CAPE BRETON

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and it is on the subject of decentralization of government services, a matter which I have been pursuing for a long period of time both with the minister and with other cabinet ministers by mail, in personal conversations and in the House. In the light of the serious unemployment situation on Cape Breton Island, which is well known to the government and the general poor economic situation, and since it is so close to the festive season, is the minister in a position today to spread some cheer to the population of Cape Breton by announcing which government service will be located on Cape Breton Island?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I wish I could play the role of Santa Claus, but I have to put on some weight before I do that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: Unfortunately, I am not in a position to announce anything today. I would like to meet the wish of some members of the House and of the municipality of Ottawa to make any further announcement all in one shot, if I may use that expression. I hope to be in a position to do that early next year and I hope there will be something for certain sections of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Muir: May I ask the hon. gentleman if he will continue to exchange notes with his colleague and my colleague from Cape Breton Island on that subject?

Oral Questions

Mr. Chrétien: He is so close to me that we can exchange notes now many times in the day.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

VETERINARIANS—DELAY OF INTERIM PAYMENTS—REQUEST THAT PAYMENTS BE MADE IN 1976

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I just want to pursue the question I asked the other day with respect to the 400 or 500 public service veterinarians. The minister had undertaken to look into the matter to see if some way could be found to have the interim payment made to them in 1976. As an alternative, he was going to discuss contingencies and remedies with the Minister of Finance. Can he tell us what the situation is with respect to that matter?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as I suggested the other day, a better solution seemed to me to be that a payment be made by the Department of Supply and Services. My colleague, the Minister of Supply and Services, being apprised of the situation moved very quickly and I understand the payment will be made before December 31, which I think is the best way to have the problem resolved.

An hon. Member: Fast government action.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am seeking guidance from the House. Because of the possibility that later in the day the House might adjourn for a fairly long time and there are half a dozen hon. members trying to ask questions, rather than conclude the question period now I would be prepared to at least permit those hon. members who have been seeking to ask questions throughout the question period to put one question, if not supplementaries, in order that they may be able to put their questions before the House adjourns.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: If that is the disposition of the House, may I conclude the question period by calling on the following hon. members to put one question each: the hon. member for Lisgar, the hon. member for Fraser Valley East, the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo, the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley and the hon. member for Victoria.

Mr. Broadbent: All Tories.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR FREE MOVEMENT OF FERTILIZER AND CHEMICALS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him if