

Oral Questions

The findings reached at these meetings were made public. We are still discussing the proposals with some of the provincial governments and provincial egg marketing boards, and I do not think these will be finalized until late this Friday. At least, I am hopeful that they will be finalized this Friday.

Mr. Jarvis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. For some time the minister has been seeking additional federal authority over egg marketing. Would the minister tell the House whether he is satisfied that he has received sufficient federal authority within CEMA, or is the minister also seeking additional authority over the Food Products Marketing Council?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking orderly marketing for eggs. We have asked the provinces for and been given more federal authority by the majority to enable CEMA to operate in this way. There is also a commitment to reorganize the National Farm Products Marketing Council.

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IMMIGRATION

**LEGALITY OF ADOPTION OF VIET NAM ORPHANS—
SUGGESTED CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES TO ESTABLISH
CO-ORDINATING AGENCY**

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and concerns a matter of great moment to many adoptive parents in Canada. Has the government investigated the claim by the International Red Cross that adoption of Vietnamese children contravenes the Geneva convention governing the protection of civilian populations; and can the minister assure us that these adoptions are in fact legal and that there will not be any questions asked later as to the legality of the adoptions of children already adopted?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have made several statements in this regard, many of them in this House. The children that are being brought forward are children for whom the adoption process, in terms of complying with the legal requirements of the government of South Viet Nam and in terms of complying with the legal requirements for adoption by provincial jurisdictions in Canada, has been completed or is arranged.

As I have indicated, there could be one or two exceptions to this as a result of the confusion and the urgency of the situation in Saigon at the time. A responsible agency might present to our officials there a child as an orphan that they would like removed from Saigon, but such a child would only be accepted if the approval of the South Vietnamese government had been given, and in all cases I am aware of that has been the case. One or two of these children, however, may not have proceeded through the adoption process in Canada, in which case we will have to be very careful—there is one such case—in our contacts with the provincial authorities in order to ensure that the adoption process, which is a provincial matter, does not proceed until all questions are clarified and settled in

[Mr. Whelan.]

terms of the legality of the adoptions in Viet Nam and here.

Mr. Beatty: A brief supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I should like to address to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I gave him some indication a few weeks ago that I would be interested in this matter. In light of the fact that the adoption of orphans from overseas requires the participation of perhaps some five different government departments or agencies, would the minister tell the House what progress is being made, in co-operation with the provincial governments, in establishing some sort of federal co-ordinating agency to facilitate the adoption of orphans from overseas where these adoptions can legally be made?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report to the hon. member that during the conference of welfare ministers in November 1974, it was agreed, that the Department of National Health and Welfare would establish an adoption desk to deal with international adoptions and to co-ordinate these activities with the provinces. This desk has been created and we are now working very closely with the provinces as well as with the Department of Manpower and Immigration to simplify all negotiations required.

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[English]

BILINGUALISM

**DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS BY FARES SCHOOL—REQUEST FOR
DELAY IN RENEWAL OF CONTRACT UNTIL INQUIRY
COMPLETED**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that the Fares language school for public servants recently summarily dismissed 22 teachers for asking for better working conditions and wage parity with similar teachers employed by the federal government, and in view of the fact that the Public Service Commission has instituted an inquiry into the awarding of language training contracts, would the minister ensure that the Fares contract, which is up for renewal at the end of May, will not be renewed until the PSC inquiry is completed and recommendations are brought forward?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I shall examine the matter and report to the hon. member.

[English]

Mr. Symes: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the Fares contract has amounted to \$243,000, will the minister undertake to investigate the working conditions and salaries at the school as well as ensure that the school is maintaining proper language instruction standards?