

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): By the first week in April, or about that time, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

SPORTS

ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL SKI TEAM

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Last week, I asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether the national ski team had made a request for financial aid and, if so, how much it had received. As the Parliamentary Secretary promised me an answer, I ask him if he can give it to us today?

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the presence of the minister will be required in the house on Monday, and I believe he will be pleased to answer the hon. member.

[English]

GRAIN

ADVANCES TO ASSIST IN DRYING OPERATIONS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can the minister tell us when he will be in a position to introduce legislation which will provide for further advances to farmers to assist them in the drying of their grain?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The Minister without Portfolio, who is in charge of this legislation, might wish to answer that question.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): It is our hope that we shall be able to do this at an early date.

Mr. Korchinski: Is a month not long enough?

FISHERIES

SEALS—REQUEST THAT OPENING DATE BE SET AHEAD

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): My question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Speaker. In his absence today, though I think he is supposed to be here, I will direct it to the Minister of Defence Production, knowing the great interest he takes in the seal fishing industry. I would ask him whether, in view of the fact that veteran sealers believe the opening date for the seal harvest in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, set for

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Inquiries of the Ministry

March 18, is too late, and want the date set ahead to March 12, the government has given any consideration to changing to the earlier date.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Defence Production): I would have to take the question as notice and give a reply as soon as possible.

Mr. Carter: A supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the disastrous condition of last year's fur seal market, due to the tremendous volume of adverse publicity about the annual harvest, can the minister say whether market conditions are expected to improve this year?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I doubt whether this question is in order. It seems to me the hon. member is asking the minister to express an opinion, and for that reason I do not think the question can be allowed.

Mr. Carter: May I emphasize my question, then? Can the minister give the depressed fur seal industry a helping hand by persuading the Prime Minister to buy a fur seal coat to wear on suitable occasions?

Mr. Pepin: I understand that the Prime Minister already has a fur coat.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That will not make him very popular.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I hope you were paying particular attention to that question—by whom it was posed, the type of question, and the portfolio held by the minister to whom it was directed, so that we can in future direct questions to the minister from the Maritimes—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am glad the hon. member brought this to my attention. Ex post facto I declare both the question and the answer out of order.

[Translation]

BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM

INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF BILINGUAL AREAS

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, according to a recommendation made by the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, which is dealing with the bill on the official languages, bilingual districts are to be set up in Canada. From what we hear, no bilingual districts would be set up in British Columbia and in Newfoundland. I