

*Oral Questions***LABOUR CONDITIONS****STRIKE OF CANADIAN PRESS EMPLOYEES—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS**

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can he report to the House on his meeting with the Canadian Press management, and can he tell us whether progress has been made in reaching a settlement in this matter of a kind which the staff is seeking and to which I think they are entitled?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did meet the publishers this morning. I thought it was a fairly productive meeting, at the conclusion of which it was agreed to accept my suggestion that Tom Eberlee, the Deputy Minister of Labour, be assigned on a special project basis as the mediator in an endeavour to resolve the dispute. This has put the matter on a more urgent footing. I spoke informally with some of the leaders of the Guild outside parliament and I indicated to them this particular conclusion reached at the meeting. They seemed to me to be quite satisfied with this report. So, I anticipate that the parties will soon be getting together under the aegis of the special mediator, Tom Eberlee and I hope they can come to some reasonable settlement.

* * *

ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD**DATE BOARD KNEW OF RADIOACTIVE CONDITION AT ELLIOT LAKE—REASON FOR FAILURE TO NOTIFY CITIZENS**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the minister tell the House how long the Atomic Energy Control Board knew that certain homes in Elliot Lake had unacceptable concentrations of radon gas, that at least eight homes were built on radioactive waste material, and why this information has not been conveyed to the residents affected and remedial action taken?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the investigation of the situation at Elliot Lake goes back many months, indeed back to the early part of this year. At that time the Ontario department of health made a number of surveys, particularly in schools and public buildings, and I am glad to report they were negative. Other samplings have been taken since that time right until very recently with respect to houses in Elliot Lake. Again, generally speaking, they were negative. It is only recently that this particular quartzite band has become an area of attention and houses on that particular band are now being surveyed. I can assure the hon. member and his constituents, and more particularly the constituents of the hon. member for Algoma, that the AECB will set up an office early in November. I think there will be three crews who will be directing their efforts to monitoring and investigating each of the houses on this quartzite band as well as other houses if it becomes necessary.

[Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan).]

I invite all citizens of Elliot Lake to participate and to assist the Atomic Energy Control Board in this important activity.

SUGGESTED DELAY IN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT ELLIOT LAKE IN VIEW OF RADIOACTIVE CONDITION

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): I find it difficult to believe that the problem appeared suddenly overnight. I would think it is the result of negligence on the part of the board in monitoring the situation in Elliot Lake over the past 20 years.

I should like to put a supplementary question to the minister. In view of the fact that as late as two weeks ago the Elliot Lake town council approved the development of two new mobile home sites on land which may be contaminated, will the minister ensure that there will be a moratorium on housing developments until the AECB has surveyed the land for possible radiation hazards?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I can assure the hon. member that there have already been discussions between the AECB and the town council with respect to these new developments. Measures are being considered, including some design changes.

* * *

BILINGUALISM**FRENCH LANGUAGE TRAINING IN OTTAWA SCHOOLS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. It arises out of the assertion in the Speech from the Throne and the allusions in the minister's speech in the House yesterday concerning second language training among young people, specifically in relation to the four Ottawa school boards. Can the minister inform the House what is the intention of the government with regard to the extension of financial assistance for the special programs that were undertaken and which have proven to be of considerable value to the area?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the concern of the hon. gentleman in this regard. Unfortunately, we have not yet received any request for funding for these worthy projects. The school boards should, if they have not already done so, contact the provincial government, and I hope it would forward this request to us.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I thank the minister for that answer. In view of the fact that the boards are conducting what is in reality a pilot project on teaching methods which could be used in other parts of Canada and because of the particular pressure which exists in this area by reason of the concentration of the public service in the national capital, would the minister undertake to contact the provincial minister of education with respect to this matter so that the boards could know how much, when and by what method this funding