

Mr. Lawrence: Because the whole question of the dial-a-judge scandal has been referred to the Canadian Judicial Council by one of the judges involved, and because it is a matter of importance and has received much publicity, I wonder if the Minister of Justice would be good enough to make sure that he receives a report from the Canadian Judicial Council on the matter, which it is now obviously discussing because it has been referred to it, and if the minister would undertake to release that report to the House and to the public?

Mr. Basford: I am not aware that matters have been referred to the Judicial Council, and I point out to the hon. member, who has for two weeks in this House been talking about the independence of the judiciary, that I am in no position to demand reports from the Judicial Council except those provided by law.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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POST OFFICE

VANCOUVER—FAILURE TO DELIVER BROCHURES FOR KINSMEN REHABILITATION FOUNDATION—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Has the Postmaster General received a complaint from the Kinsmen Rehabilitation Foundation of British Columbia with respect to the failure of the Vancouver Post Office to deliver to apartment blocks in Vancouver, under bulk permit 3229, several thousand brochures appealing for funds? Because of the importance of this appeal to the fund raising activities of the foundation on behalf of the handicapped of British Columbia, I wonder if the minister could inform the House what action he has taken on the matter.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I understand that immediately upon complaint the matter was referred to the investigation department of the Post Office. It has virtually completed its investigation, but a very important part of that investigation is a meeting with the executive director of the Kinsmen Club, and for one reason or another they have been unable to arrive at a suitable date for such a meeting. When that meeting is held with the executive director of the Kinsmen Club, I would then consider the investigation completed and would then be in a position to see what corrective measures might be taken, if any.

Mr. Dinsdale: In view of the fact that the Kinsmen Foundation complaint has provided specific details as to where delivery failure took place, I wonder if we could have the assurance of the Postmaster General that delivery will take place without further costs to the foundation.

Mr. Mackasey: The hon. gentleman can have my assurance that, once the investigation is completed, if upon reading the results of that investigation I find that in any way the Post Office has been remiss in its duty, then certainly we would want to make that type of adequate

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compensation, but I am still not convinced that the Post Office is necessarily at fault. The meeting with the executive director of the Kinsmen Club is very germane to the decision.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST THAT COMMISSION CEASE SETTING DEADLINE FOR ELIGIBILITY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since the Unemployment Insurance Commission continues to apply internal regulations, which do not even have force of law, concerning the deadline for benefit claims, in spite of the fact that an umpire of the federal court has qualified this policy illegal and that a number of unemployed are thus deprived of benefits, could the minister tell this House whether he intends to take steps to put an end to these administrative practices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge with few exceptions the regulations made by the Unemployment Insurance Commission under the authority of the Governor in Council have to pertain to, and have their power from, the act itself. If in the odd case there is a regulation which does not meet favour in the appeal system through the courts, then that is corrected. That is normal procedure.

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TRANSPORT

EFFECT OF SUBSIDIZING NEW STEAMSHIP SERVICE FROM GREAT LAKES TO ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. However, in his absence I will direct it to the Acting Minister of Transport. I was wondering if the minister is aware of a new steamship service commencing in the first part of April, 1976 from the Great Lakes direct to St. John's, Newfoundland. May I ask the minister if a subsidy is being provided from the national treasury for this new service? Has a study been made by the department to ascertain what effect this will have on Canadian National shipping through the port of North Sydney into Newfoundland, with particular reference to employment at those docks and at Port aux Basques and also the general employment with the CN system in the Atlantic provinces?

Hon. Ron Basford (Acting Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will have the Minister of Transport determine what, if any, subsidies have been paid and what, if any, analyses have been made of that service.