

*Oral Questions*

appreciate that there might be other connotations. The hon. member may ask his supplementary question, after which I will recognize the hon. member for Hamilton West.

**An hon. Member:** Will the minister resign?

**Mr. Stevens:** I was wondering whether the Acting Prime Minister could inform the House if the Minister of State in charge of multiculturalism, who has been absent for several days from the House, is in fact out looking for his executive assistant?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps I was inspired when I suggested we should not have a second supplementary question.

**Mr. Sharp:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the House will regret to hear that the minister responsible for multicultural affairs is not well and will wish for his speedy recovery.

\* \* \*

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE—  
REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I should like to ascertain what the advisory committee of the UIC is doing. Can the minister advise me, now that several members have returned from their holiday in Switzerland, whether in fact the advisory committee is meeting, whether it is meeting in other places than the city of Toronto, whether its report is ready to be handed to the minister and, if not, what is holding it up, keeping in mind that the committee brought in a report in respect of the first part of its investigation in April. I think there is some responsibility in the minister's department to ensure that these matters are followed through. What has he to report with respect to the question asked?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the advisory committee is committed, quite properly, to holding public hearings, one in Toronto which, I believe, is scheduled for July 19, following which they will travel to Vancouver to hear representations, from claimants in both cases. Following that, I am sure they will be able to finalize their recommendations in the form of a second report. I might add, as I said before, that in spite of that delay, which is logical and reasonable, to get claimants' views, we have been taking action to correct the situation in which we found ourselves.

**Mr. Alexander:** In order to ascertain whether in fact the advisory committee has properly accepted its statutory responsibility which is to bring a report to the minister within six months of the end of the year, I wonder whether in fact the advisory committee has given this report to the minister and whether the minister is now in a position

[Mr. Speaker.]

to table it. If not, what is holding it up this time in view of the committee's statutory responsibilities?

**Mr. Andras:** The report is on its way to me and as soon as I have examined it I will table it.

\* \* \*

## NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR TO CHAIRMAN, DR.  
HOWLAND—REASON FOR DELAY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the great importance of the position of the chairman of the National Energy Board, particularly under present conditions, I should like to ask the minister whether he can assure the House that the government will be appointing a successor to Dr. Howland to take office by the time Dr. Howland retires.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, we have this under consideration at the moment. I would hope so.

**Mr. Stanfield:** In view of the importance of the position, and the need for an appointment can hardly come as a surprise to the government, has the minister any explanation as to why all he can do this morning is tell the House that the government has the matter under consideration? Is there any possible reason for delaying making such an important appointment?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** No, Sir.

**Mr. Hees:** There is not a Liberal in the country who has a spark of energy in him.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

\* \* \*

## SUPPLY AND SERVICES

SUGGESTED ENCOURAGEMENT OF PLACING OF ORDERS  
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Supply and Services. Having in mind the meeting of Liberal leaders scheduled for this weekend at Vancouver and the forthcoming further meeting on economic objectives in western Canada two days from now, will the minister give consideration to increasing that very small proportion of orders which his department places in British Columbia when letting contracts for services and supplies, which I think amount to only 5 per cent?

(Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have the statistics with me, but if my memory serves me correctly, over the past five years, in absolute terms as well as in percentages, purchases in British Columbia have doubled. It is true that