

*Inquiries of the Ministry***LABOUR CONDITIONS****MINIMUM WAGE—INQUIRY AS TO RAISING OF LEVEL FOR THOSE UNDER FEDERAL JURISDICTION**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that it now has the authority to do so by order in council, is the government giving consideration to raising the level of the minimum wage for those who come under federal jurisdiction?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Consideration is being given to the minimum wage. Such consideration has been going on for some time now. While I am on my feet, may I—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May we expect an announcement soon?

Mr. O'Connell: If an announcement is to be made it will be made in due course. While I am on my feet—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have just about reached the end of the question period. Perhaps the Chair might recognize the hon. member for Edmonton Centre and possibly return to the minister in a short while.

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CANADIAN CULTURE**ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CANADIAN-GERMAN ORGANIZATIONS IN ALBERTA RESPECTING APPROVAL OF GRANTS UNDER MULTICULTURAL PROGRAM**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Secretary of State. Would the Secretary of State advise the House what his department plans to do about the evident discrimination shown in making grants under the multicultural program, considering that not one of the numerous applications by Canadian-German organizations in Alberta has been approved?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the charge of discrimination in the member's question. I only wish to point out to him that he is very quickly drawing inferences. The process of grants to organizations under the multicultural policy has not been completely developed up to now, but surely there has been no discrimination against a group, especially that referred to by the member for Edmonton Centre.

[*English*]

Mr. Paproski: The minister said "multicultural". I received a telegram today stating that all the German organizations in Alberta have been discriminated against. They have not received one grant.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. members who have not had an opportunity to ask questions, but before moving to the budget debate and allowing the hon. member for Edmonton West to make his contribu-

[Mr. Dubé.]

tion, I will recognize the Leader of the Opposition who appears anxious to ask a supplementary.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM WAR—BRITISH PROPOSAL TO RUSSIA RESPECTING SPONSORSHIP OF CONFERENCE—CANADIAN POSITION**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Acting Prime Minister or to anyone who is authorized to speak for the Department of External Affairs. What is the position of the government with respect to the initiative taken by the government of the United Kingdom in attempting to persuade the government of the U.S.S.R. to join with the United Kingdom in sponsoring a conference on Viet Nam similar to the conference which those two governments jointly sponsored in 1954? Has the government of Canada taken any steps to support the United Kingdom initiative?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Acting Prime Minister): Questions have been directed to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the Viet Nam situation and the suggestion has been made that a statement should be made in the House either by the Prime Minister or by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I think this is still under advisement. If a statement should be made, I have every confidence that the matter now brought forward by the Leader of the Opposition will be dealt with in the statement.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to seek information from the government House leader—I see him behind the curtain—I know he has been cogitating upon my question. I should like to ask the House leader what the business will be for the rest of this week and all of next week.

● (1500)

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, as for the rest of this week, today, as my hon. friend knows, we are beginning the budget debate. Tomorrow we will continue our discussion of the Old Age Security Act amendments. If that bill receives second reading, we will commence second reading of the veterans bill. On Monday we will continue the budget debate, and on Tuesday we shall resume, if uncompleted, the pension bills, old age security and veterans.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, might I ask a supplementary? Can the hon. gentleman advise the House whether he has had certain discussions with his colleague, the Prime Minister, and can he reassure his anxious colleagues on the other side of the House that the House will in fact be sitting until the end of June? Can he also assure the opposition that we will in fact have an opportunity to