

*Oral Questions*

people would describe it as union busting. I know the minister was in British Columbia last week and I know also he did not meet with both sides personally. I am going to ask him if he will go to Vancouver, call both sides together, have a meeting and get this whole matter settled, and force the B.C. Telephone Company, by his very persuasive powers, to begin to provide decent service for the consumers in British Columbia, and also civilized treatment of the B.C. Tel workers.

**Mr. Regan:** Madam Speaker, the very distinguished member is well aware I have no powers under the legislation to force the parties to agree. At the moment I judge to be the appropriate one, where a mediator of a very senior nature can be helpful in bringing the parties together—there has to be the right climate, a willingness and perhaps a recognition by B.C. Tel before a mediator can be successful—I will appoint a senior mediator. We have already had a conciliation report. I will review it very thoroughly, and hopefully before the end of the week may find a situation in which a senior mediator would be appointed.

*[Translation]*

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION STRIKE—FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour.

The conflict between the French-speaking journalists and the CBC seems to have become shamefully protracted. Francophones outside Quebec have not had access to a single French language national news service for over three months as they cannot have a private network in their own language like the people of Quebec. Of course, it is a well-known fact that settling this conflict is not a priority for the government.

However, since the negotiations through the mediator appointed by the Minister of Labour have failed and the union has asked for a new special mediator from outside the government framework to be appointed, can the minister tell us whether he plans on agreeing to this request and whether he thinks that a similar conflict between English-speaking journalists and the CBC would become as protracted?

*[English]*

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member refers to the other work stoppage in the country which is most troublesome to my department at the present time. I would only say to him that we have grave concern about the length of time the deadlock has existed between the CBC and the French-language journalists. I have, at the moment, probably the most able mediator in the country, Mr. Guy de Merlis, participating in mediation efforts with the parties. He was meeting yesterday, and I believe again today, with Radio-Canada. If a settlement is to be achieved, there is no question it will be necessary for Radio-Canada to move from some of the entrenched positions they have taken, and there will probably be the necessity of further movement

on the part of the union. I point out to the hon. member there has to be a willingness on the part of the parties to settle, to move, and to conciliate and only in those circumstances can an end of the effort come.

I remind the hon. member that by using mediators of the calibre of Guy de Merlis and others in our department, the federal Department of Labour, both under the present government, the previous government and the government before it, has achieved a higher percentage of settlements without work stoppages than any other jurisdiction in the country.

*[Translation]*

POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SETTLE STRIKE

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona):** In short, Madam Speaker, on the constitutional package, he wants to play the Prime Minister's game, with the French-speaking people of Canada. My supplementary question is for the President of the Treasury Board. Can the minister confirm that Treasury Board has set aside additional funds in anticipation of a settlement of the CBC conflict and can he tell us whether he intends to notify the CBC officials that their obvious desire in allowing this conflict to go on is now too apparent to the French-speaking people?

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, the member is well aware that our people have nothing to do with those negotiations. In any event, if a submission is made for additional funds, we shall certainly consider it.

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*[English]*

## AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED CHANGES IN HERD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. I am sure the minister is aware, after his travels to the west and from communications he has received, that confusion still reigns with respect to the herd maintenance program. He has probably read the three motions presented by members of the opposition in the last ten days containing recommendations for a solution to his problem. I am wondering if the minister had the opportunity of examining these recommendations, and is he giving consideration to them because they would go a long way toward solving his problem?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the herd maintenance program is administered by another minister, the Minister of State in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, but I do have a lot to do with it. I just want to say we met last week and again this week, and I believe there will be another meeting. We cannot change the criteria that much—

**An hon. Member:** Change the minister.