

Oral Questions

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

ELIGIBILITY OF PERSONS RETIRING AT AGE 65 TO FURTHER BENEFITS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

I apologize for taking his time. My question is complementary to that of the hon. member for Hochelaga, and deals with a proposed amendment to Bill C-69 concerning unemployment insurance. At the present time, 65-year-old persons who retire are entitled to unemployment insurance benefits for a number of weeks prescribed by the act. Now, the amendment proposed in the bill would limit that number of weeks to three.

May I therefore ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether, considering the many representations made in that regard, he would accept that the bill be amended in such a way that 65-year olds continue to receive those benefits for at least a year so that those who will be 65 in the future may become familiar with the new policy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the hon. member is anticipating the debate which will be held as early as next Monday, if I understand correctly what the House leader said. We must discuss that bill. The hon. member's question as well as that of the hon. member for Hochelaga are arguments. Hon. members will have the opportunity to express them during the debate. The minister will be present to answer them, and they can also be discussed in committee.

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FINANCE

REQUEST FOR THE INDEXATION OF MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. Serge Joyal (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): I should like to like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Can he tell the House whether he had the opportunity, yesterday, of making representations to his provincial counterparts asking that the salaries of workers governed by the minimum wage not be frozen but that instead the minimum wage be indexed upon the standards proposed in Bill C-73?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we discussed the matter of the minimum wage with the provincial representatives and suggested that the increase in the minimum wage be discussed this afternoon with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro). We were made aware, however, as in the past, that some provinces are opposed to an unduly high increase in the minimum salary. On the other hand we are quite concerned about that group of wage earners in our society, and are willing to discuss, with the provinces, the concept of a general increase in the minimum wage.

[Mr. Mackasey.]

[English]

POST OFFICE

WILLINGNESS OF POSTMASTER GENERAL TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH STRIKING WORKERS

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister or the Postmaster General and is related to previous questions. Would the Prime Minister or the Postmaster General be prepared to contact the postal union's negotiating committee today in an effort to resume bona fide bargaining and get the Post Office back into operation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I gave earlier, the assurance that the Postmaster General had not only the support but the enthusiastic support of the government. His door is always open to any resumption of negotiations. If any assurance is needed, I can assure hon. members opposite and the members of the postal union that if they want to talk to the Postmaster General he will be happy to talk to them.

An hon. Member: But will he listen?

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PUBLISHING

DATE OF DECISION ON CANADIAN CONTENT REGULATION FOR PUBLICATIONS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue. Has the cabinet yet accepted recommendations about Canadian publication content rules and the meaning of the term "substantially different" and, if so, when will regulations be announced? Does the government contemplate having to amend Bill C-58?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of National Revenue.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue): I thank the House for its generous applause—perhaps the last time Canada's tax collector will be so treated.

I should like to say, first that the meaning of the words "not substantially the same" as far as the bill is concerned will be interpreted by my department as being at least 80 per cent different. The information is being made public at this time so that the parties concerned will have it. This, of course, is contingent upon the passage of Bill C-58, but as a courtesy to the parties concerned I felt it appropriate we should indicate what our position was.

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POST OFFICE

WILLINGNESS OF GOVERNMENT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH STRIKING WORKERS UNCONDITIONALLY

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. In the light of the