

Oral Questions

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I will have to check into what might happen to the commissionaires who are at present doing the work. I know we are now recruiting special constables, but I will have to obtain a proper answer to this question.

Mr. Lundrigan: In view of the fact thousands of these dedicated people have been providing this service for years, and as the minister certainly should have made a decision by now, will he give an undertaking to report to the House tomorrow with the assurance that these people will not lose their jobs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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NATIONAL PARKS

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF REPORT ON LAND RENTALS

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister responsible for national parks. Will he release immediately the report on land rentals in the national parks, which was submitted to him almost two years ago by the rental review board under C. C. McLaurin?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I shall look into that matter and be pleased to inform the hon. member. If this report has not yet been tabled it is because it involves rulings regarding certain individuals and certain business undertakings. It might not be in the public interest to disclose these facts without getting the consent of the people concerned.

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• (1150)

[English]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST THAT LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS BE MADE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that local improvement districts in Saskatchewan apparently are not eligible for grants under the LIP program and yet they are in effect municipal bodies—they are governed locally and they already get provincial grants—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask a question and not present an argument?

Mr. Nesdoly: Has the minister given some consideration to changing this policy to include local improvement districts as entities eligible for these grants?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this question was asked by another hon. member yesterday and I have just sent him a note with the information that I received last night. I find

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

contrary to what I thought was the case yesterday, that local improvement districts are in fact not eligible because they are considered to be part of the provincial government. This criterion was discussed and approved by the provincial government before the terms were established for the making of LIP grants.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION ON SENTENCING, COMMUTATION AND PAROLE IN CONJUNCTION WITH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. As the issues are clearly related, will he or the Minister of Justice introduce legislation dealing with sentencing, commutation and parole which could be considered simultaneously with the capital punishment bill?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, just prior to Christmas I received a report from the Hugessen task force which dealt with the whole matter of parole, temporary absences, sentences and so on. We are presently studying that report with a view to preparing some legislation or changes in the regulations, and we will be announcing our intentions in due course.

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[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

POTATOES—MEASURES TO CONTROL PRICES

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

In view of the fact that towards the end of 1971 the government guaranteed a minimum support price of \$1.50 per bushel of potatoes, and that the opposite trend is now manifesting itself in that potatoes are selling for \$3.50 per 50 lbs. and, according to my information, might sell as high as \$5 to \$6 by April 1973—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but I suggest to him, and to all other hon. members, that many more could take part in the period if questions were shorter—and I must add, answers as well. In any event, I invite the hon. member to put his question as quickly as possible, as we have reached the end of the oral question period.

Mr. Beaudoin: Can the minister tell us whether or not he intends to take steps to protect the consumer?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I feel that the matter of the cost of potatoes really falls within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Beaudoin: I would therefore ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he can answer my question.