

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, all the materials used in bread making are fixed for five more years and they cannot change.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA—REQUEST FOR DEBATE PRIOR TO SIGNING OF AGREEMENT

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. On Friday the Secretary of State for External Affairs said an agreement with the Republic of Korea concerning the sale of a Canadian nuclear reactor would be tabled in the House. Since we will then be faced with a *fait accompli* on an extremely serious matter that a host of experts, including General E. L. M. Burns, have warned the government against, what steps will the government take to bring a provisional agreement before the House for debate so that the full scope of the reasons Canada should not take this action can be aired before a militaristic repressive regime is helped by Canada to get nuclear technology?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have heard the hon. member's point of view and I will convey it to the minister. It would not be in accordance with the responsibilities that are laid upon the government to bring international treaties before parliament before they have been signed.

**Mr. Roche:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I should like to ask the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs if the government has studied the representations made on this subject by the International Commission of Jurists and the International League for the Rights of Man which document the repression now being carried out by the Republic of Korea against its own people and which suggests that the signature of that country on a nuclear safeguard agreement would be worthless.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, these views are familiar to the Department of External Affairs and I would assume that the minister has been advised.

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### NORTHERN AFFAIRS

#### DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF OIL AND GAS REGULATIONS FOR NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the minister's comments, made as long ago as May of this year after four years procrastination, that new oil and gas regulations would be introduced without delay, and in view of the fact that there has been a drastic cutback in oil and gas exploration particularly in the Mackenzie Delta area, can the minister indicate when he intends to bring forward these oil and gas regulations?

### Oral Questions

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, it is our hope that we will bring them forward this fall.

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### POST OFFICE

#### STRIKE OF INSIDE WORKERS—LEGAL RIGHT OF BUSINESSMEN TO OBTAIN DAMAGES

**Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Could the minister indicate to the House whether he believes that those whose mail is tied up—particularly small businessmen—have any rights to obtain damages through the courts as a result of the current strike?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I could not give legal advice. The men are on strike legally. In all legal strikes, some segment of society unfortunately gets hurt. We tend to forget that sometimes the workers themselves get hurt. I have checked out the impact of the strike with the 20 per cent of the industries and Canadians who account for 80 per cent of the volume of the mail. There will be some people hurt in the strike. Unfortunately, some are small businessmen. On the other hand, there are many benefiting by providing a substitute service. It is hard to tell the impact. Any mail that is in the post office at the moment and has been sorted by CUPW members will be handled by the letter carriers' union. We have this assurance. However, in a day or two it will be unrealistic to presume there will be any more such mail available. I hope for the sake of small businessmen the negotiations resume fairly soon and that the strike is brought to an end. In the meantime, we are prepared to allow it to run.

● (1450)

#### STRIKE OF INSIDE WORKERS—IMPACT ON ISOLATED NORTHERN AREAS

**Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Postmaster General. The isolated communities of northern Canada, as I am sure the minister is aware, depend entirely on the mail as their only means of communication. Can the minister guarantee that people living in these isolated areas will not suffer from loss of livelihood due to this national emergency? I want to assure the Postmaster General that my offer to carry the mail to the Churchill constituency still stands.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, that might be considered as some sort of strike breaking. I cannot guarantee that there will be no harm done as a result of the strike. I think we are forgetting that I did not call the strike and the union did not have to go on strike, even if they were in a strike position and did not necessarily agree with my particular tactics. It is important to remember that the strike was called by the union, not by the post office. There was no lockout. The responsibility for the effects must be placed exactly where it should be, on those who called the strike.