

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member but there are only two minutes left before the end of the question period and I see many hon. members who wish to ask questions. I seek the co-operation of hon. members so that we can have as many questions as possible. I will not charge hon. members for the 15 seconds I have just taken.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Since redistribution would have to take place before the next territorial election a year from this November and any increase in the size of the council would have to be dealt with in this session, can the minister say whether or not he expects to introduce amendments to the Yukon Act with respect to those increases in this session.

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, of course I intend to proceed as soon as possible, and I believe we will have lots of time because the next election will not be called before 1974.

\* \* \*

[English]

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS

##### INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES ON NEW MINIMUM WAGE

**Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Since the minister has just met with his provincial counterparts, can he inform the House whether any agreement was made on the proposed new minimum wage and, if so, when will the legislation be enacted?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. What took place at the conference of Ministers of Labour was a comparison of minimum wage rates throughout the country, both federal and provincial. There was no effort on the part of the provinces to ascertain the future policy of the federal government relative to the minimum wage other than to indicate that they would like some conformity between our own and their rates. I gave a general indication that we were considering further increases, but no specific time for the implementation of those increases has been determined.

\* \* \*

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS

##### INCREASE IN STAFF TO PROCESS DISABILITY CLAIMS

**Mr. Harry Olausen (Coast-Chilcotin):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I understand there is a large backlog of veterans cases to be processed. Can the minister inform us whether he has any intention of increasing the size of his staff?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry but I did not get the first part of the question. Would the hon. member repeat it?

#### Oral Questions

● (1150)

**Mr. Olausen:** I understand there is a large backlog of veterans cases to be processed by the department. Is there any intention to increase the size of the staff in order to deal with them?

**Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that we have increased our staff in the past and this is still in process. As hon. members know, it takes time to train staff to understand the legislation, evaluate the medical facts and all the rest. We are looking at this at all times and it is quite possible that we will further increase our staff.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

#### TRADE

##### RIGHT OF UNITED STATES TO SELL USED CARS IN CANADA—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Can the minister inform the House as to the intention of his department with respect to granting Americans the right to sell used cars in Canada?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, there are no plans to change those rules.

\* \* \*

#### SUPPLY AND SERVICES

##### REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT ALL TENDERS WILL BE OPENED IN PUBLIC

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the recent revelation by the Minister of Supply and Services that millions of dollars of goods and services are being purchased by his department through a procedure whereby, while there is tendering, tenders are opened in private, would the Prime Minister assure the House that this unusual practice will cease and that in future all tenders in the minister's department will be opened in public and that those tendering will be given the opportunity to attend such openings?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, it is true that it is the practice in my department. I personally wondered why. That was done during the days of the former Tory minister. On December 28 I asked that a study be prepared on the advantages and disadvantages of such a practice and that alternatives be submitted to me if necessary. My officials handed me the report today and I intend to discuss it with them next week.