

also, if there was a written report as a result of the investigations of Mr. Ménard's activities, which it was claimed totally exonerated him, will the minister make sure that is made available to members of the House?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): In the terms of reference as I see them there is no restriction in that regard. I think the man who will be in charge of the inquiry can inquire not only about the deal with the McGregor Agency, but also in respect of the deal that took place involving the Barbados affair. I do not know whether Mr. Ménard is guilty of anything as there has been no judicial inquiry in that case yet. I think we should be satisfied with the scope of the inquiry when we remember that members of the House can ask any questions in the committee on estimates, and that I am going to produce a policy on civil aviation. In that way I think we can obtain answers on anything relating to Air Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Témiscamingue wish to put a supplementary?

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): No, Mr. Speaker, my question is not a supplementary.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON MANITOBA PILOT PROJECT

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

A few months ago the minister advised the House that a guaranteed annual income pilot project would be tried out in the province of Manitoba. Can he tell us today whether that project is now in operation in Manitoba, what its results are, and whether he intends to extend its application to the other provinces in Canada?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, indeed this pilot project has been operating in Manitoba for several months. It will operate for three years after which a period of critical assessment of 18 months will follow. I am therefore totally unable at the present time, to give a progress report on this experiment.

With regard to the last question of the hon. member, to date I have received no request from any other province for a similar project elsewhere, and the government does not intend to extend it for the time being.

● (1420)

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

If the government does not intend to make this project available to other provinces, will the minister hold a meeting of some sort with the other provinces to discuss this project?

Oral Questions

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba project was approved following intensive discussions with all the provinces; the possibility of launching a pilot project was open to any interested province. Manitoba was the only province at that time to show continued interest, to the point of setting up its own pilot project. As to the assessment of this project, it is clear that we will discuss it as we receive reports on the current experiment. On the other hand, we are dealing with the general scheme of guaranteed income during the current review of social security.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a last supplementary.

This guaranteed annual income actually helps strengthen the bureaucracy that applies the whole system. Is the minister considering the establishment of a universal annual guaranteed income which would simply be readjusted at the end of the year in income tax returns, so as to reduce this overly heavy bureaucracy and also give more satisfaction to all the people?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, the proposal having already been studied by the governments concerned, I need not reconsider it. We examined it anew last year and we discarded the option for all kinds of reasons that obviously I cannot detail in the House at the present time.

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[English]

POST OFFICE

REQUEST FOR OUTLINE OF WAGE INDEXING FORMULA BEING CONSIDERED DURING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. In view of the statement last night on television by the Postmaster General that he agrees with the principle of indexing with regard to employee contracts in the Post Office Department can he tell the House, in view of his agreement with this principle, whether or not he is advancing this as part of the way to a settlement of the postal strike and, if that is the case, could he tell the House what index he is considering or is in fact advancing with regard to a way of escalating salaries in the postal service as conditions change?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I did say I agreed with the principle of indexing as has the President of the Treasury Board on several occasions. This concept was advanced at the last bargaining session. I think the hon. gentleman will appreciate, however, that if we were to divulge our bargaining position so far as the format or indexing level is concerned, we would in effect be notifying the whole world what our position is and this would make a mockery of bargaining. This is something which will have to be determined through future discussions with the union.