

current year in Canada due to high labour costs relative to world labour costs in this country?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, no, I have not had such specific representations.

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CRIMINAL CODE

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENTS CONCERNING RAPE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Will the amendments to the Criminal Code with regard to rape incorporate suggestions of the advisory council on the status of women about relevancy of evidence and protection for the complainant, and when can we expect these amendments which the minister promised some time last summer?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments in regard to rape, which I think are designed to accomplish a good number of things which the advisory council was asking for and was interested in will be in the Criminal Code amendments which I expect to present for first reading before the end of June.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

CONCILIATION BOARD REPORT ON LETTER CARRIERS—REQUEST FOR ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNMENT

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister in the absence of the President of the Treasury Board. Now that the conciliation board has brought down wage recommendations which appear to be a reasonable compromise in connection with the negotiations between the Letter Carriers' Union of Canada and the government, will the Acting Prime Minister give assurance that the government will indicate its approval of these terms with sufficient speed in order to avoid a crippling strike in this important area of communications?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the findings of the conciliation board were far from unanimous. In fact, there were three separate recommendations, so we do not have, in a sense, the common acceptance of the board to report. The report has been forwarded to the union and to the Treasury Board, and there is an agreement between the union and the Treasury Board that no comment will be made during the next 48 hours.

POSTAL WORKERS—DATE OF GOVERNMENT REPLY TO UNION PROPOSALS

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): On the same subject and in connection with the negotiations under way between the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the

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Treasury Board, could the Acting President of the Treasury Board indicate how soon the government will be making its reply to proposals which were put forward by the union some two weeks ago?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting President of Treasury Board): I cannot give a definitive answer to that, but I will inquire and inform the hon. member.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

BUGGING OF FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN CANADA—ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES ABROAD—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister, and it arises from a recently published report that the Canadian government has bugged the embassies and consulates of foreign governments in Canada, and particularly that our government has bugged the embassy of a major western European country. I ask whether this country has in recent years bugged the embassy in Canada of a western European country.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is one of those questions which is very delicate. I would hesitate to give an answer at this time. I believe that my colleague has indicated that he would like to have some sort of procedure established whereby we could look at security matters, and I do not think it would be advisable to discuss them on the floor of the House of Commons in this way.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, I was amazed by the refusal of the Acting Prime Minister to accept the motion of my colleague under Standing Order 43. Arising from the statement by the Prime Minister last January that, "We have never . . . engaged in any espionage abroad in the sense that we have not been looking for information in an undercover way in any other country," and in light of the fact that a report in this week's "Time" magazine directly contradicts the Prime Minister's statement, I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the Prime Minister's statement that we do not engage in espionage activities abroad still applies and whether it is accurate.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, certainly in my experience I have heard of no spying activities by Canadians abroad. We do not have any foreign espionage organization of any kind, so I would say that the statement of the Prime Minister is accurate.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

EFFECT OF LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE ON FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO SETTLE STRIKE

Mr. Charles Lapointe (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, I shall direct my question to his parliamentary secretary (Mr. Corriveau).