

*Oral Questions*

mists are required in her department at these salary levels?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure that information could be obtained in another manner. The hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta.

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**LABOUR CONDITIONS****POSSIBILITY OF MEETING MR. FITZSIMMONS, PRESIDENT OF TEAMSTERS' UNION—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour of which I tried to give his office notice this morning but they never called me back. In view of the fact that the minister has arranged for a public relations promotion for Mr. Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers at the front door of the House of Commons next Tuesday, can the minister advise the House whether he has also invited Mr. Fitzsimmons, president of the Teamsters' Union who represents 85 per cent of farm workers in California?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, if Mr. Fitzsimmons writes and requests to be met I will be pleased to meet him.

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**CRIMINAL CODE****TERMS OF PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO ABORTION PROVISIONS**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like clarification from the Minister of Justice on a very important point. When I asked him earlier whether the inquiry would include the grounds on which an abortion might be legally performed or would be confined to the administrative aspects of the law, he indicated that the question had not been decided. I should like him to reassure me of that in view of his apparent response to the right hon. member for Prince Albert indicating that it was the manner in which the abortion committees, doctors, had been observing it that required looking into. Is the minister and the government considering an inquiry into the grounds on which a legal abortion may be performed as well as the manner in which the law is being administered or not? I think it is important.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I will confirm that the decision has not been taken. The further discussion about the kinds of questions that may arise is obviously a discussion of the sorts of issues that have to be looked at in determining the nature of any possible inquiry.

**INTERPRETATION OF WORD "HEALTH" IN ABORTION PROVISIONS**

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact the use of the word "health" in the Criminal Code is what seems to be the basis of the problem of interpreta-

[Mr. Stevens.]

tion of what the intention was in this legislation, I wonder if the minister could indicate why he has consistently refused to draft some specific rule as to what the government interprets this to mean?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I have had occasion to give my opinion as to what I think it means and have received criticism for even venturing that far. I would remind the hon. member that further discussion on the subject of the definition did take place in this House at the time of the passing of the bill. I can refer hon. members back to that discussion where I think the spirit was clear that the words "health" and "life in danger", in the context of a law otherwise requiring serious punishments for interfering with the fetus and destroying it, was that it would clearly be only a very serious matter that would be involved. I personally have the view that an attempt simply to introduce some qualification like that would not accomplish the end that is sought in creating consistent administration around the country and therefore some further examination of the issue is needed. What I do not want to do is simply, as some hon. members would have it, appear to do something which in fact accomplishes nothing. I want to accomplish something.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the hon. Minister would agree to tell the House whether "health" means physical health or also emotional health?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Despite the minister's special capacity surely this is not the proper forum in which to discuss the hon. member's opinion on matters of that sort.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****WEEKLY STATEMENT**

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the government House leader about the business for the rest of this week and next week.

**Mr. Sharp:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, may I designate Monday, June 2, and Thursday, June 5, as allotted days? Today the House will consider second reading of Bill C-16 on the status of women. I hope it will be possible to dispose of this legislation today.

● (1500)

**Mr. Stanfield:** At the second reading stage.

**Mr. Sharp:** The second reading stage, yes. In order to do this, perhaps the House might be disposed at some stage after the first round of speeches to limit the length of speeches in order that as many members as possible might participate. Tomorrow we will proceed with a number of report stages and third readings in this order: Bills C-37,