

nel is established between employer and employee in these delicate negotiations?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, any mandate which Post Office negotiators have is subject, of course, to Treasury Board approval, as that mandate involves a monetary package. But, according to the spirit of co-operation which prevails in this party, direct negotiations are taking place between negotiators of the Post Office and the Letter Carriers Union, so that the union should have no misgivings about our direct involvement in these negotiations.

Let me tell the House that I appreciate the responsibility of the Letter Carriers Union, which yesterday decided even though they are in a legal position to strike to return to work, at my suggestion, in return for the assurance that we will continue bargaining later this day. I intend to see that that particular promise on my part is respected.

MONTREAL—PROBLEM OF CASUAL EMPLOYEES—MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): May I direct a supplementary question to the Postmaster General, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform the House if he is maintaining continuous contact on the issue of casual employees and the suspensions arising therefrom at the Montreal post office.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, the other, independent issue, namely, the whole problem of casuals across Canada which is principally a problem particularly for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, will be negotiated at the national level when we begin that round of bargaining. The local problem of casuals in Montreal is really not a problem concerning casuals but a problem as to how this difference of opinion which periodically arises is to be resolved. I simply repeat, today, that so long as there are militants in the Post Office who think the proper way of resolving this difference of opinion is through violence, they will continue to be suspended indefinitely as quickly as we note such type of action which I am sure the majority of workers find distasteful.

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FISHERIES

POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF FISH RESOURCES BY MYXOSOMA CEREBRALIS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of the Environment. Has the minister, or officials of her department, been in contact with Ontario and Michigan state officials concerning the possibility of contamination of Ontario and Canadian fish resources by the disease myxosoma cerebri which has all but destroyed the Michigan state hatcheries program?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the details of this. Perhaps

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the hon. member might direct his question to the Minister of State in charge of fisheries.

Mr. Darling: Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of State responsible for fisheries. May I repeat it, in case he was not listening. Has the minister, or officials of his department, been in contact with Ontario and Michigan state officials concerning the possibility of contamination of Ontario and Canadian fish resources by the disease myxosoma cerebri which has all but destroyed the Michigan state hatcheries program?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I have asked for further information on this. I will endeavour to give it to the hon. member within the next 24 hours.

Mr. Darling: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister please inform the House what the federal responsibilities are concerning contamination in a case such as this where natural fish movements across international boundaries could lead to contamination and eventual destruction of entire hatchery and fish populations?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, the problem of disease in hatcheries is one of complicated jurisdiction at which we are looking right now.

[Translation]

ALLEGED HERRING FISHING BY FOREIGN VESSELS IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State (Fisheries).

Could he answer the question I asked yesterday concerning the problems created by the French, violating our territorial waters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I have been able to control the facts respecting that situation, and I can inform the hon. member who asked me a question on that matter that, indeed, there are French trawlers in the gulf, because of the agreement providing for a progressive reduction up to 1986, and allowing French trawlers to fish, provided they do not increase their fishing effort.

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[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF TERMS OF REFERENCE AND REPORT OF INVESTIGATION INTO SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Is the minister ready now to table the terms of reference, or originating document, or the letter from him to the RCMP respecting the SIU probe and also those portions of the conclusions which he earlier indicated he might be able to table.