

LOTTERIES

DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): My short supplementary, Madam Speaker, is directed to the same minister. Will the minister advise the House whether he is using the interest on the unclaimed Loto funds for amateur hockey and football scholarships for those worthy students who require money? The money is sitting there; what is the minister doing with the \$750,000 interest accumulated on the unclaimed Loto Canada funds?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I have some difficulty determining how that question is supplementary to the original question. However, I want to assure the hon. member that we are continuing to improve and to expand the grants in aid to students who have achieved excellence, not only in the Olympics, but now also in non-Olympic sports in the country. We have not specifically applied any particular source of funds, because the unclaimed lottery funds, from the days when we used to have that wonderful organization known as Loto Canada, are being held against the possible outcome of some lawsuits which were undertaken by people who felt the Conservative government's withdrawal from Loto Canada did them a legal injustice.

Mr. Paproski: What did that have to do with my question?

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● (1150)

AGRICULTURE

PROPOSED CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORT COUNCIL

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the previous Liberal government took initiatives to establish the Canadian Agricultural Export Council under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Agriculture, only to be disregarded by the previous government—I repeat, Madam Speaker, only to be disregarded by the previous government—will the minister update this House on the progress of CANAGREX, its structure and method of financing?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, CANAGREX, the Canadian Agricultural Export Council, is under very serious discussion. Preliminary drafting of the legislation is proceeding. I hope we will have something in the not too distant future to report to the House.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PASSPORT GUARANTORS—NON-RECOGNITION OF VETERINARIANS

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Employment

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and Immigration. Recently a veterinarian in British Columbia signed as guarantor on a passport application form and it was returned as unacceptable by the department. The reason they gave was that they do not recognize veterinarians as a profession. I am a veterinarian and I find that very offensive. If you look at the document, Madam Speaker, you see that school teachers, postmasters, lawyers, dentists and others can sign these applications. Will the minister do something about this and recognize that these people are professionals? They are the James Herriots of Canada, for heaven's sake.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, passports come under my responsibility. The guarantor section of the passport application form is not meant to be a stamp of government approval of various professions in Canada; it is related only to serving the needs of the public. We believe we have provided for a sufficiently large number of classes of guarantors so that all of the public is adequately served.

Mr. Greenaway: Madam Speaker, I find that answer unacceptable. The answer that came from the department was that they do not recognize that profession as a profession. That is just unacceptable. I therefore ask the minister to have a look at that.

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, I do not know what may have been said to the hon. member, but I can tell him it is not our duty to pass on various professions. It is our duty merely to ensure that the people have a wide selection of possibilities for passport guarantors.

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RAILWAYS

WHITE PASS AND YUKON ROUTE—MEETING TO DISCUSS CLOSURE

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. According to a news broadcast this morning by the CBC at Whitehorse, the president of the White Pass and Yukon Route Corporation, Mr. Tom King, has called a meeting of all railway employees and their wives for tomorrow morning in the Travel Lodge in Whitehorse to discuss closure of the White Pass railway. Has the minister been informed of such a meeting? I know that he is in the middle of negotiations which have been going on for some time now, negotiations commenced by the previous government. When is the minister going to exercise some leadership and initiative in coming to a solution to the very critical problem facing the railway so that it will continue its operation and provide the only link to tide water that the Yukon has?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I think the hon. member is confusing two issues. As I understand it, the meeting taking place there is relative to a labour dispute that, hopefully, is in the process of being settled. The question