

Inquiries of the Ministry

beside the President of the Treasury Board. In the interest of promoting fairness, will the minister now report on the status of Ann Booth, the CRTC employee who wishes a leave of absence to seek a nomination for the forthcoming federal election?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite clear that an application for leave of absence to seek the nomination in a local constituency was made by Miss Booth. That leave, which may be accorded or withheld by the Public Service Commission, was in fact not granted by the commission. Consequently, Miss Booth's action or intention to proceed to seek the nomination anyway would be against the Public Service Employment Act. Miss Booth has been suspended by reason of failure to comply with the act.

Mr. Fairweather: Is the treatment of Miss Booth likely to be duplicated as other public servants seek nominations?

Mr. Drury: I hope that all public servants who seek nomination will, as the law provides, seek leave of absence for the purpose of getting it and proceed in accordance with the decision rendered by the Public Service Commission.

* * *

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**DISPUTE WITH NABET—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. It arises from the question yesterday to the Secretary of State who is not in the House today. In view of continuing reports of difficulties in the CBC with NABET, would the Prime Minister ensure that the Secretary of State will come into the House tomorrow and make a statement on motions or at some time during the day to clarify the situation, since the fluid position which he said existed on Monday, according to NABET today has not improved from the position which existed in May, 1971, and I suggest is stagnating.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**POSSIBLE REVISION OF REGULATION RELATING TO SEVERANCE AND HOLIDAY PAY**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question either to the minister answering for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration or to the parliamentary secretary. In view of the many representations that have been made calling for a revision of the definition of earnings regulation under the Unemployment Insurance Act in so far as it relates to severance pay and holiday pay, may we be told whether considera-

[Mr. Fairweather.]

tion is being given to revising that regulation with respect to either or both of those items?

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Consideration is being given to this matter. Both subjects are under study by the minister at the present time and an announcement may be forthcoming shortly.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have just about reached the end of the question period. A moment ago the Chair undertook to recognize the hon. member for Hamilton West for a last supplementary question. I would bring to the attention of hon. members that there has been a concentration of questions by frontbenchers today. I hope the Chair will be given an opportunity tomorrow to look a little more to the fourth and fifth rows as a number of hon. members there would like to have a chance to ask their questions. For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Hamilton West.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE**PLANS TO REDUCE STRIKES—POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to follow up my earlier questions with a supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board. In light of the fact that the President of the Treasury Board has indicated he is more interested in reducing strikes than in withdrawing the right to strike from the public service, I wonder whether the President of the Treasury Board intends to make a statement regarding the criteria which will be set in order to accomplish this, or whether it will be done by way of legislation and, if so, how soon we can expect this legislation?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I think the House leader has given an indication of when there will be possibilities or otherwise of legislative enactment in this respect. My practice will be to ensure that the negotiations and the framework of negotiations are such as to lead to the conclusion of an agreement rather than the precipitation of strike action.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**SUGGESTED REFERENCE OF PETITION OF OLD CROW INDIANS TO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in connection with the business of the House. The government House leader indicated to me yesterday that he would have an answer for me today as to whether he would permit the petition of the people of Old Crow to be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.