

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****TELEVISION—UNDESIRABLE ADVERTISING DIRECTED TOWARD CHILDREN**

**Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State.

Is it his intention to follow the lead of the Movement in favour of abolition of advertising directed at children (MAPDE) and also to submit recommendations to the CBC in order to avoid future flagrant abuses of advertising directed at children, for instance for toys, clothing and cereals?

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I feel that is more a responsibility involving the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. However, any suggestion emanating from that department would be promptly forwarded to the CBC.

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[English]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****INQUIRY AS TO LETTERS FROM PROVINCES EXPRESSING OBJECTIONS TO WHITE PAPER**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** I also have a question for the Minister of Labour concerning unemployment insurance. First, I should like to refer him to *Hansard* of January 25, page 2713, where I am recorded as having asked the minister the following question:

In view of the urgency of the unemployment crisis, can the minister tell us whether he has yet received answers from all the provinces? Is it still the minister's intention to bring this legislation in by July, 1971, or is he updating his timetable in an attempt to deal with the very harsh unemployment situation?

The minister's answer was:

We are now running ahead of schedule in connection with the timetable outlined for the preparation of the draft bill, and I see no particular reason why we should not meet the target date of July 1, 1971.

I find it a little difficult to understand the minister's position at this time, and I question his credibility.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has the floor for the purpose of asking a question. Perhaps he might come to that point now.

**Mr. Alexander:** I will do so, Mr. Speaker. In view of the minister's answer today regarding the province of Quebec, can he assure the House that there are no other hidden letters from the provinces voicing their objections to any particular matter in the white paper on unemployment insurance? In other words, can we be assured that there are no objections from any other provinces?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has asked the minister to assure the House that there are no hidden letters. I wonder whether a question in those terms is in order. I gather that if the hon. member would put the question in another form the minister might answer it.

**Mr. Alexander:** I will remove the word "hidden", but the minister understands my position.

[Mr. Drury.]

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** What I do not understand is why the hon. gentleman, who is one of the more likeable members of the House, would want to question my credibility. In the nine years I have been in the House I have never questioned the credibility of any Member of Parliament. I do not think it is the tradition in this House to question the credibility of any member of the House.

The hon. member's question the other day was whether I felt I would be able to meet the timetable that I had mentioned previously on several occasions in the House, namely, July 1, 1971. I repeated that date today in answer to a very reasonable question from the Leader of the Opposition. I repeat now that I see no particular reason why the legislation should not be ready by July 1, 1971. I will have to wait for the official reaction of the provinces to the proposed legislation after they see the draft of the bill which will be available to members of the House at the same time.

**Mr. Alexander:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. May I say with all due respect that I appreciate the lecture the minister has given me, but may I draw his attention to the fact that he has not answered my question. I want to know whether he has received any correspondence from any other provinces similar in nature to that received by him from the province of Quebec. It is a simple question calling for a simple answer.

**Mr. Mackasey:** The hon. member must know, as a member of the appropriate committee, that in July letters were sent to all the provinces inviting them to appear before the committee, to which the hon. gentleman made a very valuable contribution. I could check with the appropriate chairman, but I doubt very much that any official opposition to the concept was raised before that hearing by any of the provinces. Certainly, there have been questions from various provinces and in order to answer these we have been in constant communication, including visits to each and every capital of the provinces.

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****DATING OF PACKAGED FOOD**

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would he say whether a request has been received from the government of Manitoba urging that the dating of packaged food for consumption purposes be made mandatory and included in the federal packaging and labelling legislation?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** I received a very helpful letter from Mr. Hanuschak of Manitoba. I discussed it with him over the telephone. It is my position, which I will enunciate further in the committee because the bill is before the committee, that the question of date stamping or an indication of age of products can be provided for under the existing wording of the bill. I provided for that in the drafting of the bill. But if a clarifying amendment would