

Oral Questions

Mr. Forrestall: It is not a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask the minister whether there is any deliberate attempt to work into this program the beginning of the summer employment programs with respect to hirings by his department and by other departments.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, I cannot reply for the other departments, but in my own case we are developing a student employment program for the summer and it is not directly related to the winter program. It would not be fair to the students to have some of their jobs taken away by others who were employed in the winter.

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AGRICULTURE**BEEF—GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING SUBSIDY—
REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO PRACTICES OF PACKING
PLANTS INVOLVING COMMUNITY SALES**

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture related to the subsidy on beef. Since the DES restriction has been put on beef imports the subsidy has been reduced. When does the minister intend to remove the subsidy totally, a subsidy that has been causing a great deal of unfavourable disruption in northern Ontario? Secondly, is he undertaking an investigation to ascertain whether or not unfair advantage has been taken by the Toronto packing plants with respect to those involved in community sales?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say that the price of beef has gone up only about 4 cents a pound since we initiated the subsidy program, and even with the subsidy the beef producers are barely meeting their costs of production at the present time, no matter what anyone says. The subsidy program may be causing some problems in some parts of Canada, but the response I get from most people is that they want the subsidy left on until they get their costs of production out of their product. What was the other question?

Mr. Peters: It was about monitoring the packing plants to ascertain whether or not advantage has been taken of prices at community sales that do not reflect the subsidy.

Mr. Whelan: I apologize for not answering that question earlier. A complete audit of the books will be taking place later. Some auditing is taking place at the present time.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**ALLEGED DISCREPANCIES IN APPLICATION OF \$500 SALARY
INCREASE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board, notice of which I have already given him. It concerns the discrepancies that exist between program administrators of the Economic Security Employees National Association and other civil servants in that these

[Mr. Speaker.]

people did not receive the \$500 increase that was recently awarded to other members of the Public Service. Can the minister tell the House if he is aware of these discrepancies, and what action does he intend to take to correct them?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I think the House will recall that the \$500 compensation is to be paid to those who were signatories to long-term contracts which had not yet expired. For those that had expired and in respect of which new negotiations, in light of current conditions, were taking place, the \$500 was not awarded. The group in question falls into that area. The question in my mind is whether the arbitrator took current conditions adequately into account in making his award, and perhaps we should ascertain this.

Mr. Carter: Can the minister explain the discrepancies that exist with respect to the recent settlement awarded to fire-fighters at airports in that in one province, British Columbia, the settlement was 38.5 per cent for a 26-month period and in Saskatchewan and the Atlantic provinces it was 22.22 per cent over the same period?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I do not think a settlement has been reached; it is proceeding to arbitration.

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● (1530)

HOUSING**ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN FINANCING STUDENT
CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING—REQUEST THAT CMHC REPORT BE
MADE PUBLIC**

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact that the minister received last September the long-awaited report of CMHC respecting alleged irregularities in the financing of student co-operative housing in Toronto and other Ontario cities, which is close to seven months ago, is the minister now willing to make that report public so that appropriate action can be taken against wrongdoers, and so those persons who are innocent and have been dragged into the mess through a public whispering campaign can be exonerated?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my answer was that it would not be made public but it would be submitted to the law officers of the Crown, which has been done.

Mr. Atkey: In view of the fact the report has been submitted to the law officers of the Crown, would the minister be willing to indicate what charges, against what persons, are going to be levelled or what other disciplinary action may be taken against any body, federal or provincial, of which he has knowledge?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I have knowledge that the association of architects in Ontario is taking action. The rest of the question should properly be addressed to my