

Inquiries of the Ministry

is reduced to four days, there is a loss of one day's employment each week and no benefit is paid. However, where two days' employment is lost in any week and only three days are actually worked, under the present provisions, the sixth day which is normally a holiday is treated as an unemployed day and two days' benefits are paid.

There is an anomaly, however, in the treatment accorded to a claimant who loses one day each week, and the claimant who loses two days every second week. This problem is being studied by the unemployment insurance commission, in an endeavour to find a solution which will conform with the underlying principles of the act and which will at the same time be equitable to the claimants.

CIVIL DEFENCE**CONTINENTAL TESTS—INQUIRY AS TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ambrose Holowach (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, of which I gave him notice, or in his absence may I direct the question to his parliamentary assistant? With respect to the announcement by the United States civil defence administration to the effect that the first continental defence tests will be undertaken shortly, in which the United States and the ten provinces of Canada will be taking part, would the minister make a statement to the house on this important matter, and advise whether any public participation in the tests is contemplated?

Mr. F. G. Robertson (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member was kind enough to indicate his intention to ask this question. I regret that I am unable to make a statement at this time. Bearing in mind the nature of this question and the fact that there is no apparent urgency, I would suggest that this question might be placed on the order paper.

CUSTOMS ACT**IMPORTATION OF SLINGSHOTS AND MALAYAN STYLE THROWING DAGGERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): May I direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. What representations has his department received recently from police authorities in relation to the importation of slingshots and Malayan style throwing daggers, and what steps does the department contemplate to curtail the importation of these weapons?

Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I have not any knowledge of any such application as that to which the hon. gentleman refers. I shall look into the matter immediately and see whether it comes under the jurisdiction of the customs and excise branch of the Department of National Revenue.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE**EXTENSION OF BASE AT STEVENSON FIELD—SALE OF HOUSES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. O. Campney (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply to an inquiry addressed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) to my colleague the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) on March 12 which he said concerned 30 houses on Whytefold road in St. James, Manitoba. This area has been acquired by the Department of National Defence for the extension of the air force station at Stevenson field. When it was acquired there was a considerable number of shacks, shanties and some houses on the property. As a matter of fact I am informed there are about a dozen houses which are in a very dilapidated state. They are without plumbing and are a menace to health. Three of them are occupied. A survey is being made, and when the area is being cleared for use such of the buildings as appear to have any salvageable value will be declared surplus to Crown Assets Disposal Corporation for sale and removal and the rest will be demolished.

POWER**INQUIRY AS TO DIVERSION OF YUKON RIVER WATER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Rodney Adamson (York West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, but in his absence to the Prime Minister. It arises out of a secret meeting between the premier of British Columbia and representatives of the American Aluminum Company and the Frobisher-Ventures Complex at which the question of the diversion of Yukon river water into Taiya inlet and into the Sloko river to the Taku inlet was discussed. Before the government of Canada cedes any water power rights to the United States government or any agency thereof or to the Aluminum Corporation of America, known as Alcoa, for concessions or grants of United States territory, will the matter be brought before the house, and has there been any change in the basic policy on the export of primary power from the Yukon?