

Oral Questions

Mr. Toupin, has disclosed yesterday what he intends to do in this respect and since the measure contemplated is far from being sufficient to allow those producers to operate at full capacity next winter due to the high cost of grain, could the hon. minister advise us whether he intends to communicate with Mr. Toupin in order to develop a real federal-provincial assistance policy in favour of those producers which would allow them to survive and maintain their production levels?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have just seen the program that the minister of agriculture for the province of Quebec has stated he is going to put into force and I think it is one of the best in Canada aimed at aiding farmers or cow-calf operators at the present time. The hon. member will have to be patient and wait to see what I am going to do.

* * *

[Translation]

HEALTH

PROPOSALS TO PROVINCES FOR CONTROL OF MEDICAL COSTS—GOVERNMENT INTENTION

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In view of the fact that the provinces have recently turned down the federal government proposals for controlling the cost of medicare and health care, I want to know whether the minister intends to meet the provincial authorities in the near future to solve that problem as soon as possible.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am to meet the health ministers early in 1975. Now, I am not sure whether that matter will be on the agenda which has not yet been drawn up definitively with my colleagues. Naturally, the review of cost sharing has been discussed at length in the past few years and at least several more months of discussion will probably be required before we can ascertain whether there are better solutions to the present situation for improving health services.

● (1500)

[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

POSITION OF REGIONAL AGREEMENTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the keen interest shown yesterday by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Liberal backbenchers in the crisis in the forest industry facing Canada today, particularly in British Columbia, will the minister tell the House what stage his discussions with that province have reached subsequent to the umbrella agreement signed on March 28, and how are the regional agreements coming along?

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is possible for me to go into full details in the time available. I may say that from our point of view we are most anxious to conclude these agreements, particularly those relating to areas of the hon. member's concern, as quickly as possible. Within recent weeks we have instituted further talks with the government of British Columbia, in an attempt to speed up this process. For our part, we are ready to go ahead quickly and I will be prepared to sign as soon as the documentation is completed. Largely, however, the question itself at this period of time will probably have to be answered by the government of British Columbia.

[Later:]

Mr. Leggatt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, earlier today I directed a question to the government House leader in the absence of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As that minister is now present in the House, I wonder if he could be given an opportunity to answer my question, which is of some importance.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Provencher.

* * *

IMMIGRATION

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE FRANCOPHONE IMMIGRANTS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the statement the minister made on motions last week respecting new regulations for immigration, what new steps is the department taking to recruit French speaking immigrants?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think I answered that question in a reply to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition. I indicated that we are working in a co-operative fashion with the government of Quebec to establish offices and other facilities in Francophone countries. These will work with our officers abroad and will encourage, recruit and search out Francophone immigrants who wish to come to this country, but all of this will be done within the constraints of the regulations which are applicable to all prospective immigrants, no matter from what source.

* * *

POST OFFICE

ALLEGED BOYCOTT OF POSTAL CODE BY EMPLOYEES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO SETTLE GRIEVANCES

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Postmaster General. Because of my sympathy for the problems of post