

of the malfunctioners. As far as the advertising is concerned, if any of it is contravening federal policy or legislation I will, of course, draw it to the attention of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

• 1130

DATE ON WHICH OPERATION OF LEGISLATION TO ASSIST
GAMES WILL CEASE

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the President of the Treasury Board. Because it has become evident that facilities for this year's Olympics in Montreal will unfortunately not be totally completed on time, and in view of the fact that legislation approved by this parliament for the various fund-raising schemes is intended for the games themselves and not for facilities to be completed at a later date, could the minister advise this House whether the various pieces of Olympic legislation and other direct and indirect co-operation will cease by the end of the games on August 1? If not, how can he justify their continuation?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, we do intend to follow the legislation as enacted by the House. And I hope the hon. member is not suggesting that we should repeal legislation because the stadium will not be fully completed for the Olympics.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

BILINGUALISM BONUS—POSSIBILITY OF DECISION BY
ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the President of Treasury Board.

Could the minister tell the House whether he invited the Anti-Inflation Board to make a decision on the bilingualism bonus in the public service and, if not, does he intend to do so?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, first of all that is not quite where the issue lies. It is whether the description of duties for civil servants should account for the additional complexity due to the fact that they must speak both languages. That matter has been referred jointly by the union and the Treasury Board to the AIB and so far we got no information in that respect.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Given the objective of this bonus, to the extent that the government will favour payment of this bilingualism bonus within the civil service, does not the minister feel that this bonus should come under the anti-inflation law?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the government has decided to apply the legislation passed by the House with respect to compensation which must be paid to its employees across Canada.

Oral Questions

[English]

INDUSTRY

DECLINE IN PRODUCTION—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO
REVERSE TREND

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. As Statistics Canada reported yesterday that the index of industrial production took a serious drop in December, the year ending disastrously in this regard, will the Prime Minister undertake next week to outline to the House what the government intends to do to reverse this serious situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member always does his homework, but he must be a slow reader, because he only read half the report. If he had kept reading Statistics Canada, he would have realized that the new business conditions survey covered 5400 firms across the country and showed an upturn in business expectations, indicating that confidence in the economy may be on the upturn in the business community.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the Prime Minister knows well, I read those reports thoroughly. The fact remains that the index of industrial production fell seriously in December, the year ending disastrously in this regard. I ask the Prime Minister again, will he come before the House and outline procedures the government intends to take to reverse this trend? Industrial production was down seriously in December and during all of last year.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, my point is this: If the hon. member read the report, obviously he did not understand it all. He is asking us to reverse the trend, but the figures indicate that the trend has already been reversed. If any additional action is needed, I suppose the announcement last night by the Minister of Finance will give further encouragement for increased industrial and raw material production.

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HEALTH

CLOSURE OF HOSPITALS IN ONTARIO—SUGGESTED
WITHHOLDING OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROVINCE

Mr. C. Douglas (Bruce-Grey): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Whereas the announcement on Thursday of last week of the closing of Clinton community hospital brought to ten the number of closures by the government of Ontario, and apparently finalized closures for this time, and whereas at least four of those ten hospitals are in western Ontario and all are in rural areas where transportation and adverse weather conditions combine to inflict severe hardships on residents of the areas concerned, will the minister consider withholding from the federal government's health plan contributions to the province of Ontario the supposed \$50 million that the closings are slated to save and use that money as direct payment to the hospitals closed, so that they may continue to provide to those rural