federal civil service to pay prevailing rates to its hourly paid employees.

I should like to include a little background with these remarks. In February, 1965, the Canadian Union of Public Employees was certified by the Canada Labour Relations Board as bargaining agent for the hourly paid nuclear reactor operators employed by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited at its Whiteshell nuclear research establishment. There are currently about 28 in this classification, out of a total Whiteshell staff of 400.

Negotiations commenced in June, and before long a tentative agreement had been reached on a number of items. When the parties were unable to agree on the remaining items, including wages, a conciliation officer was appointed by the federal Department of Labour at the union's request, and subsequent meetings were held under his auspices.

During this period, A.E.C.L. was also negotiating with 15 other unions representing some 2,000 employees in various classifications at Chalk River and Ottawa. The first settlements came in August, when A.E.C.L. reached agreement at conciliation boards with 11 unions representing hourly-paid employees at Chalk River. Settlements were reached shortly thereafter with the five other unions at Chalk River and Ottawa, leaving the two Whiteshell unions outstanding.

Immediately following the Chalk River settlements, substantially improved offers, matching the increases accepted by the Chalk River and Ottawa unions, were made to the two Whiteshell unions, and rejected by them. As a conciliation board was being set up to consider similar questions between the company and the Whiteshell machinists union, A.E.C.L. and Canadian Union of Public Employees representatives agreed to suspend their discussions until that board had met and made its report.

The Conciliation Board met in October, and issued its report late in November. A settlement between A.E.C.L. and the Whiteshell machinists union based on this report was finally achieved, after further meetings, in January, 1966.

Negotiations between A.E.C.L. and the Canadian Union of Public Employees had meanwhile resumed.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is with great regret that I must interrupt the hon. member's very interesting remarks, because unfortunately his time has expired.

FINANCE—U.S. TAX ON RAPESEED OIL AND MEAL

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I regret that the Minister of Finance is not in his seat. However, I notice that his parliamentary secretary is, and I hope that he will transmit the remarks I have to make to the minister.

I welcome this opportunity to debate the question of tariffs and duties on edible oils. Canadian edible oils, particularly rapeseed, are subject to an import tax amounting to one cent per pound when imported into the United States though edible oils produced elsewhere can enter Canada duty free.

This is a question with which I have been concerned for some time. In January of 1962 I presented a brief to the Tariff Board —reference No. 131—when hearings took place here in Ottawa. I made a submission on behalf of the oil seed producers of Canada, but nothing was done; nothing came out of that hearing.

As you are probably aware, Mr. Speaker, rapeseed when processed is manufactured into an edible oil comparable to soybean oil, cottonseed oil, peanut oil or any other oil on the vegetable oil market. A by-product of processing is the meal which is used in the production of livestock and poultry feeds and concentrates.

At the present time our tariff structure allows soybean oil, the largest competitor to rapeseed oil, into Canada from the United States under a 20 per cent tariff. However, the soybeans themselves can be brought in duty free and so can other oil seeds.

These seeds and beans are transported into Canada and processed here. Then the processed oil is sold on the Canadian market. The Canadian processor may also ship the oil back into the United States duty free or export the oil and meal under the British preferential tariff, provided they contain 25 per cent Canadian content. Cottonseed oil, peanut oil and corn oil all enter Canada duty free.

On the other hand, while no tariff is placed against it, Canadian rapeseed sold in the United States is subject to an import tax of one cent per pound. Canadian rapeseed meal going into the United States bears a tariff of $6 per ton.

In addition to exports from the United States, rapeseed oil which originates in Sweden or West Germany can also be