

*Oral Questions*

signing any agreement of reciprocity between Canada and the United States. I can assure hon. members who have made strong representations with regard to tourist losses incurred as a result of current measures that I will make strong representation to my counterpart in the United States.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I hesitate to take up the time of the House, but I do so because of the seriousness and the importance of the supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration which Your Honour ruled out of order. I used the word "plea" not inadvertently; I used it to underline the importance and the urgency of the question.

I am not in any way challenging Your Honour's ruling. However, I would, with respect, like to point out to the Chair that it is possible that Your Honour, in picking on the word "plea", missed the very important interrogatory part of my question. It had to do with a suggestion to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, who I am sorry is not listening, asking if he was prepared to play a co-ordinating role in so far as federal government plans are concerned, with a view to maximizing the job-creating potential of these federal plans in the province of Newfoundland.

● (1510)

In other words, in addition to playing this co-ordinating role, whether he would enter into immediate discussions with the government of Newfoundland to ensure that there is co-ordination between the two levels of government; because I would point out to the House, with respect, Mr. Speaker, that we have arrived at a point in time at which this is a critical situation and one which calls for a critical and serious response. I know that the minister wanted to make a response, and I would ask Your Honour, with great respect, if you would permit him to reply to that question.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is often difficult to distinguish between a representation and a question, particularly when there is a combination of both elements. I may have ruled precipitously in this case. Perhaps I was influenced by the fact that the hon. member himself described it as being more of a plea than a question. However, if I missed the question, perhaps the minister could make a brief comment, should that be agreeable to him.

**Mr. Cullen:** As the hon. member knows, I share his concern for the unemployed in Newfoundland and I did try to catalogue some of the things that were done. In the case of the linerboard factory there was a splendid joint effort. Unfortunately, it had to take place after the industry had closed down. But we are doing what we can in that area for the unemployed.

Similarly, community employment strategies have been devised. Under the new bill we will have a director-general specifically responsible for the province from which the hon. member comes, and I expect that our people will be co-operating very closely with officials and elected representatives in that province. As to co-ordination, I think this is already taking place. We are working hard to make sure there is no overlapping, and even in connection with Canada Works projects and Young Canada Works projects we are asking the

provinces to make their input so as to avoid duplication of effort.

If the bill which is presently before the committee, C-27, is passed, I expect it will be possible to free up some money there for the training program called for by the province of Newfoundland and that some of this money will also be available to the area of Cape Breton, in which case we might be able to provide a little more assistance. Anyway, we are, in fact, co-ordinating our efforts. Maybe improvements could be made and, if so, I shall be happy to consider the matter.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to indicate my displeasure at having been interrupted prematurely in the line of questioning I wanted to pursue with the Minister of National Health and Welfare dealing with a very important aspect of Canadian life, namely, the future of Canada's biologic industry. I was able to put only one question by way of a preliminary. The key questions were to follow, and unfortunately, because of some unacceptable happenings from my point of view, I was interrupted after the first question, one which in itself was perhaps meaningless.

**Mr. Speaker:** I can only recall that at the end of the hon. member's first question I looked at his colleagues and saw that they were standing, while he was not. The only reason I would ever interrupt after the first question was that the hon. member was not on his feet, while his colleagues were.

**Mr. Penner:** Mr. Speaker, I rise very briefly on a question of privilege. During the question period the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot mentioned to the House that he had not received his copy of an announcement by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as early as did other members of parliament. This is very regrettable and my question of privilege is related to this difficulty.

I am advised that there is in the House of Commons a central distribution system. Officials from the department brought copies for all members of the House to the central system which is in this building, and they were to be distributed from here to the other post offices which serve members of parliament. It is understandable that there might be some slight delay in getting those copies to the other buildings, but it does seem to me there is a question of privilege affecting all members if the difference in time is so great as to cause inconvenience.

All members should be treated as equally as possible and if, in the distribution of important information, some members find themselves at a disadvantage or are in some way inconvenienced, I believe their privileges have been violated. I would, therefore, ask whether it would be possible for Your Honour to inquire whether there might be a problem in this regard and, if so, whether steps could be taken to rectify it.

**Mr. Speaker:** It goes without saying that since the administration of the House is ultimately my responsibility, I shall ascertain whether or not these copies were delivered without undue delay; and if delivery through our distribution system was in fact in any way unduly delayed, I shall certainly report back to the House on the matter.