

*Inquiries of the Ministry***INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Noting that both Clay and Chuvalo are overweight and jumbo sized for their fight tonight, would the minister send them whatever pamphlets are available on physical fitness?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance whether, in preparation for his budget speech this evening, he has had an opportunity to read the latest book to be published by the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Gordon).

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker, but I am sure I would have benefited, as would all members of this house.

FISHERIES**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF APPLICATION PERIOD FOR ASSISTANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Keays (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the fact that a number of inshore fishermen are not aware of the program announced by the minister on December 3 and January 15, to provide assistance to those who experienced serious catch failures in 1965, would the minister ensure that the eligibility date for application for this assistance be extended to April 30?

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, when the assistance program for fishermen was introduced in January it was not a matter of extending the time of payment but rather of setting a maximum amount of assistance to compensate fishermen who had failed to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits. The assistance was set at \$350 for married persons and \$200 for persons without dependants, which is in line with the average amount received by fishermen as unemployment insurance benefit.

Mr. Keays: As a supplementary question, does the minister still insist that the final date for application be March 26?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, as the announcement was made early in January and was well advertised, it was hoped that all applications would be received before the end of March, and it would be very difficult at this time to extend the period.

[Translation]

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**POLICY RESPECTING COMMUTATION OF DEATH PENALTIES PENDING HOUSE VOTE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to put my question to the house leader, but in his absence—I am sorry I have not given notice of it—I might put it to the Prime Minister.

Since we are in a deadlock regarding the debate on capital punishment, would it be possible to work out a procedure so that the vote may be taken without delay? If it is not taken this year, will the commutation system be maintained by the government?

[English]

Mr. Churchill: Have you spoken?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think we have reached an impasse yet; at least I hope we have not.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

AIRPORTS**VANCOUVER—WORKING CONDITIONS OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Having in mind the threatened work stoppage by air traffic controllers at Vancouver international airport, would the minister indicate whether he would give consideration to their request for an impartial inquiry into their working conditions, since these men have taken a strike poll which is 96 per cent in favour of strike action within the next few days?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the situation is as immediately alarming as the hon. gentleman's question would seem to suggest, but of course the minister will take into consideration any request of this nature.