

*Inquiries of the Ministry***INDIAN AFFAIRS****NORWAY HOUSE AND CROSS LAKE—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE TELEVISION SERVICE**

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but in his absence I shall address it to the acting minister or the parliamentary secretary.

Mr. Nielsen: The parliamentary secretary is not there; try the Prime Minister.

Mr. Simpson: If neither is available I shall address it to the Prime Minister. In the areas of Canada where large numbers of Indian people are living, such as the closely adjacent communities of Norway House and Cross Lake in Manitoba, and television services are non-existent, can the Prime Minister say whether the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is considering any means whereby they can assist financially in providing this greatly needed service?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that this question ought normally to be placed on the order paper. I realize that the matter is important but if there is urgency it is not apparent to the Chair. Perhaps it might be given priority in being considered at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Simpson: On a point of order, with the greatest respect, Mr. Speaker, I thought that the minister might be able to throw some light on this question, and in view of the fact I was not able to ask the question during the last two days when he was present, I felt I should ask it today because the answer is very important.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps in view of the circumstances the question might be given priority at the time of adjournment.

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TRADE**REPORT ALLEGING DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND GREAT BRITAIN—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the minister aware of a report by Leonard Beaton for the British-North American Research Association that Canada's traditional trading links with western Europe are disappearing and that our relations with Britain have sunk to a level of triviality? If so, is the government studying this report and will a statement be made on these vital relationships?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest most respectfully that this again is the type of question which ought to be placed on the order paper. The question might be answered to the extent of whether a statement will be made on motions.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am not aware of the statement, Mr. Speaker. I

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

do not agree with it and therefore I have no occasion to make a statement.

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MANPOWER**AVAILABILITY OF JOBS**

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): I wish to return to a matter raised earlier in the question period and direct a question to the Prime Minister. It does not involve a statement he made a year ago but one which was quoted in the November 13 edition of the *Toronto Star* where he is reported to have said: "Today, if they want to do anything, there are plenty of jobs." In view of that statement, is the Prime Minister willing to accept inquiries direct to his office from unemployed people looking for jobs inasmuch as the Department of Manpower says there are only 48,000 available and there are 480,000 applicants?

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[Translation]

FAMILY INCOME SECURITY**FAMILY ALLOWANCES—INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT WITH QUEBEC**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Could he tell the House whether the Quebec government and the federal government agreed on a family allowances policy? If there has been an agreement in principle, will it guarantee the Quebec government the legislative precedence while leaving with the federal government the responsibility of issuing cheques?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, there is no agreement yet. Talks are still going on at the official level. When those talks reach definite conclusions and political decisions are made, an announcement will be made in the House.

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BROADCASTING**QUEBEC CABLEVISION LEGISLATION—DISCUSSION OF JURISDICTION WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is for the Secretary of State. In light of the initiation of cablevision legislation in Quebec and the desire of Quebec to discuss the jurisdictional issues involving cable television with the federal government, is the Secretary of State now going to meet with the Quebec Minister of Communications on this matter?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I met the Quebec minister of communications many times and I shall meet him again.