

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Now we know what is wrong with the Liberal party.

Mr. Alexander: That is why you cannot get ahead in the polls.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

TIMETABLE FOR MINTING OF METRIC COINAGE

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. I raise this question with the minister because he is also the Receiver General for Canada and the minister to whom the Master of the Mint reports.

Will the minister advise if the government is proceeding with its plan to produce metric coinage? As I understand it, coins have been designed and samples approved in the 20-cent, 40-cent and 80-cent denominations. Would the minister advise if a timetable for the release of these coins has been determined?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to provide detailed information concerning these issues. It is clear, however, that in view of the rising costs of metals, we shall have to come to a decision concerning for instance the 1 and 5 cent coins, whose nominal values are less than the costs of production. I hope I shall be very shortly in a position to announce the necessary decisions.

[English]

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, while the minister is looking into that, could he advise what consultation has taken place with the vending machine industry and the manufacturers of cash registers? We now understand that it will cost \$100 million to convert scales. What will be the cost of converting cash registers to metric coinage? What consultation has taken place with the telephone companies and the vending machine industry of the country? Could the minister find those matters out at the same time?

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, I can say to the hon. member that the Canadian Automatic Merchandising Association already is on record as not opposing any of those plans. It goes without saying that no decision will be taken without having full consultation with the vending associations.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ESTABLISH FAMILY COURTS IN QUEBEC

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice.

For the past couple of years several Quebec groups, and in particular the Quebec Women's Federation, have been calling for the establishment of a family court. In view of the results of the latest federal-provincial conference at which there was unanimous consensus on the transfer of family rights, could the minister say whether he intends to introduce shortly a bill to amend the constitution so as to set up those family courts, and does the minister, as this will undoubtedly necessitate rather extensive delays, have an alternative which might be immediately applicable to Quebec which could rapidly establish a family court?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, in co-operation with several provinces we have already managed to establish family tribunals by going ahead with the joint appointment of judges who are particularly knowledgeable in the area of family relationships. I do not have a similar agreement with Quebec yet but such an arrangement is available to the Quebec authorities if they want to use it, just as a few other provinces have already used that technique.

With respect to the constitutional amendment that would be required to ensure the transfer of marriage and divorce to provincial jurisdiction, the government indicated it agreed with such a constitutional amendment and no decision has been made yet as to the date when parliament will be called upon to consider that specific amendment.

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● (1450)

[English]

TRANSPORT

USE OF ADDITIONAL GRAIN HOPPER CARS ON CPR LINES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In response to farmers' concerns over the recent media report that the CNR only would get the new hopper cars which the Wheat Board has ordered, when presumably the farmers collectively will pay for them, would the minister explain why farmers who are on CPR lines will apparently not be able to have the use of the hopper cars?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there was a point in time when both the Wheat Board and I had the distinct impression that the Canadian Pacific Railway were telling us that they would have enough cars for the handling of grain next year. That, incidentally, was part of