

*Oral Questions*

of Newfoundland asking the minister either to impose a tariff on fluorspar imported from Mexico, which is now cheaper than St. Lawrence fluorspar or to restrict imports of fluorspar in order to keep that mine operating? Were these letters answered and, if not, why were they not answered? Does he intend to accede to these requests?

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I will look into the matter to determine whether or not we have got an answer away to the government of Newfoundland as requested. Both the options which have been mentioned are available to us and I can assure the hon. member they are being considered.

**Mr. Crosbie:** I would point out that people have already been laid off and that people are being laid off, now. Moreover, the miners in this industry have a terrible history due to radiation problems. When can the minister give us an answer? The first request came in July from the government of Newfoundland but the minister, or his predecessor, did not reply. How soon can an answer be expected?

**Mr. Horner:** Very soon.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE**

REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE IN CASE OF MR. SANT SINGH

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It involves a public servant by the name of Sant Singh employed in the hon. lady's department who was denied advancement in the public service because of his political beliefs—he happened to run as a candidate for my party in the riding of Pontiac.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** That is not my judgment. That is the judgment of the adjudicator for the Public Service Staff Relations Board. The government has now decided to appeal the finding of that adjudicator, Mr. O'Shea, to the Federal Court of Canada. Can the minister tell us how she can justify beginning her tenure of office as the head of the department by continuing this persecution of a public servant and why she does not personally intervene in this case, as the humanitarian she professes to be, one which has been brought before the Federal Court on improper grounds and is really a persecution of Mr. Sant Singh?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** My first comment is that if the assumption put forward by the hon. member were right, it would be obvious there had been enough political interference for me not to continue such interference. The assumption is wrong, as far as I know, and I do not intend to interfere in any way with the process established by regulations concerning the behaviour, classification and promotion of civil servants. The hon.

[Mr. Crosbie.]

member said it very clearly. A notice of appeal of the adjudicator's decision has been filed in the federal court, and it is absolutely not the time for a minister to interfere.

● (1142)

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, what the minister is saying by her answer is that a deputy minister in the federal public service now has the unfettered right to destroy the career of a public servant.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** This can be done by actions which have been found by adjudication to be contrary to the spirit of the public service statutes, namely, the right of public servants to participate in political activity.

My question to the minister is: will she not reconsider the impropriety of her answer today and the position she is taking today? Will she not look to her constitutional duties and step into this persecution so found by the adjudication arm of the government? The minister is taking a dreadful position, and she ought to be ashamed of herself.

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**TRADE**

BEEF IMPORT QUOTAS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTENTION

**Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the uncertainty which exists with respect to the future of import quotas on beef coming into Canada, has the minister yet been able to give his personal attention to the question of the development of more precise and permanent import control laws along the lines suggested frequently by such organizations as the Saskatchewan Stockgrowers' Association and recently in a report published by the agricultural committee in the other place?

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, yes, we are giving close attention to this problem. Before any announcement is made, we should like to discuss the whole question with the Americans, Australians and New Zealanders.

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**INDUSTRY**

COAL—OPENING OF NEW MINES IN CAPE BRETON

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In a recent speech to the Canadian Conference on Coal in Alberta, the minister dealt at length with the sale and increased production of coal, among other matters pertaining to the industry, but regrettably, according to the press account of the *Edmonton Journal*, only