

Oral Questions

were to be dealt with under the bill to which there was objection such as termination of claims, calculating of benefits and severance and holiday pay, I should like to know whether the minister now intends to bring in legislation which will clear up this matter. What is his intention in this respect?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated the other day, I will be making a comprehensive statement on this matter in the near future.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. We have pressed the minister now for about a week on the necessity of making a statement, and for one week he has told us that he will be making a statement in the near future. As this matter is of extreme importance, may I ask the minister what is causing the delay in the making of the statement, and can he give us some definite time within which the statement will be made? Certainly, this is a very important matter. Can the minister give us some assurances in this regard?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, the future is nearer now than it was when I made this statement one week ago.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a point of order. I ought at this point to remind hon. members that, according to the order made earlier, it is my understanding that the question period is to be limited to 20 minutes. However, I will recognize the hon. member, as I must, on the point of order, and then the hon. member for York South.

Mr. Alexander: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister a question and we are not very appreciative of his smart-alecky remarks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alexander: With all due respect, my question was fair. Surely, if the minister is a gentleman he could give me a decent answer instead of trying to be so smart. I will ask my question again. Can he be more definite with respect to the time by which he will give the statement, and can he tell us why it has taken him a couple of weeks to prepare this statement?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I cannot add to what I said the other day. I will make such a statement very soon. It will be comprehensive. The requirement for me to be comprehensive means that I will need to take more time than would be necessary to prepare the kind of simplistic statement for which the hon. member may be looking.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I am looking for a statement, not for smart-alecky remarks.

[Mr. Alexander.]

[Translation]

ALLEGED DENIAL TO QUEBEC TEACHERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Can he tell the House whether he intends to have specific discussions with the Quebec government to solve the problem of teachers who, when victimized by unemployment, are not entitled to any benefits and, if so, what specific measures does he intend to take regarding this?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, I have had no such previous representation. I will be glad to get details from the hon. member or any other source and look into the necessity of such consultation. If it is necessary, I will be happy to do so.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair recognizes the hon. member for York South.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I reserve my question for this evening and ask if you will be good enough to recognize the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour.

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● (1440)

PUBLIC SERVICE

REPRESENTATIONS BY NURSES FOR REOPENING OF PAY NEGOTIATIONS—RESULTS OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF TREASURY BOARD

Mr. Ed Nelson (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the assurance of the minister in reply to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that he was prepared to meet with the nurses, can he report to the House whether he has seen them and whether he is prepared to seek a revision of the arbitral award handed to them recently?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I met with representatives of the nurses of the Canadian Public Services for an hour or so last night. We had an interesting, and I think frank, discussion. I promised them an answer at the beginning of next week.

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[Translation]

BROADCASTING

CABLETELEVISION—JURISDICTION OF QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Communications.