

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the greater fiscal freedom that Canada will have under the floating exchange rate, will the minister explore with his colleagues the possibility of tabling at an earlier date than has been planned the white paper on social security?

**Mr. Munro:** Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated and I say again that I expect the white paper to be before the House prior to the end of the session. Precisely what date that will be I cannot say.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister not make that a day prior to the adjournment of this part of the session rather than the end of the session in the fall?

**FISHERIES**

## MEASURES TO PROTECT EXPORTERS OF FROZEN GROUND FISH FOLLOWING FREEING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, Mr. Speaker. What steps does he propose to take to protect Canadian exporters of frozen groundfish who are suffering the consequences of the action of the government in floating the Canadian dollar?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, exporters of frozen groundfish today are getting prices about one-third higher than this time a year ago. The change in the exchange rate is unfavourable to them, of course, but on balance they are better off than a year ago and the prospects of further price increases are good.

**Mr. McGrath:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister prepared to use the provisions under the Fisheries Prices Support Board to indicate to the exporters of frozen groundfish the intent of the government to protect their interest on the United States market because they will suffer the consequences of the 7 or 8 per cent increase in the cost of the Canadian dollar?

**Mr. Davis:** The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. A meeting is planned for tomorrow with the industry. Our representatives on the board will be meeting the industry in Halifax.

**Mr. McGrath:** That is more like it.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**Mr. Davis:** I should tell the hon. member that within the last few days the board has offered its services but the markets are so good the industry was not interested in its offers.

**POST OFFICE**

## POSSIBLE NATIONAL STRIKE—PRESENT POSITION OF NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Treasury Board whether the statement made yesterday by the mediator, Mr. Carrothers, means an end to negotiations between the Treasury Board and the postal employees' unions or whether there are further meetings scheduled, particularly with Mr. Carrothers?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday Dean Carrothers stated publicly that he would be glad to come back at any time his services would be useful and would be prepared to do so if he received an assurance from both sides that his presence would likely lead to some kind of conclusive agreement. With a view to taking advantage of this offer the Treasury Board is now endeavouring to have further meetings with the Council of Postal Unions and today is trying to establish a time for the next meeting.

**Mr. Lewis:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister's answer obviously means that no meetings are scheduled yet. May I ask the minister to clarify to the House an obvious difference in the statement of Mr. Carrothers yesterday when he said that neither side was prepared to make accommodations—those are not his exact words but they are the effect of what he said—whereas the chief negotiator for the Treasury Board suggested that the Treasury Board had moved in order to find accommodation? One or the other statement must have been wrong, so perhaps the minister could inform the House, the postal employees and the people as to what the situation really is.

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot assume responsibility for the interpretation which the hon. gentleman puts on Dean Carrothers' remarks but I can assure him that the Treasury Board, in discussing the outstanding issues, did propose accommodation and will continue to actively seek a settlement of this dispute.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** A supplementary question, Mr.