

Since it is the avowed policy of the CBC and the federal government to provide the French-speaking minority outside Quebec with the services urgently needed to make up for time lost, can the Secretary of State assure the House and the French-speaking citizens of New Brunswick that a decision will be taken before August 1, the date on which the CBC must settle once and for all the matter of CJBR station?

[English]

**Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot assure the hon. gentleman that the decision will be taken before August 1. I will try my best to have the decision taken before August 1, but I cannot guarantee that. However, I can assure the hon. member that the sentiments which he expressed about the federal government's determination to support Francophone communities outside Quebec as well as inside Quebec are the ones we hold very closely. We are concerned, as I have indicated on several occasions to the House, about ensuring that conditions are established throughout Canada so that Francophone language and culture will not only survive but flourish.

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#### NORTHERN AFFAIRS

##### REQUEST FOR ENFORCEMENT OF MINE SAFETY REGULATIONS IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Minister of Labour has received repeated requests over the past few years from Mr. Hodgson, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, for the authority to enforce the mining safety ordinance. The latest request, to which there had been no reply as of last week, came from Mr. Hodgson on February 15 of this year. This request is fully supported by the local steelworkers union, and I would like to ask the minister if he would inform the House how the government intends to act on this request and when we can expect a reply.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, since those regulations come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Labour, I am not familiar with this matter, but I will bring it to the attention of my colleague as soon as he returns.

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#### LABOUR CONDITIONS

##### PAID EDUCATION LEAVE—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. In view of the speech made on June 13 to the International Labour Organization by the Minister of Labour setting out a position on paid educational

leave, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether this is now a policy of the federal government. If so, is it the intention of the government to promote such arrangements through Crown corporations and public service unions?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have not read the speech made by the Minister of Labour and referred to by the hon. member in his question. I cannot say that this is government policy, but with the hon. member's indulgence I will check the speech to see exactly what the minister said and to see to what extent he was enunciating a generous idea or an idea which is part of government policy.

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#### METRIC CONVERSION

##### REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE OF MILES AND ACRES IN VIEW OF UNITED STATES DECISION

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Small Business). Last week the United States government announced that it, unlike this government, was unwilling to disorient Americans needlessly by changing miles to kilometres. However, apparently this minister still intends to force this expenditure of millions of dollars, which will have the result of confusing people. Will the minister tell the House whether he has examined the U.S. initiative toward common sense, and will he now amend the act to allow basic measures such as miles and acres to stay as they are?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Len Marchand (Minister of State (Small Business)):** Mr. Speaker, we are consulting the United States government to see what its intentions are—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** What about Alberta?

**Mr. Marchand:**—with respect to miles and kilometres. It is our view that perhaps this announcement really was an announcement of a temporary measure and that it is the intention of the U.S. government in the long term to convert to kilometres. The information I have at this time as a result of further consultations with the provinces is that they have every intention of going ahead with their plans to convert road signs from miles to kilometres.

**Mr. Darling:** Mr. Speaker, not only will this cost Canadians a massive amount in terms of changing road signs and the like, but it will also place one more barrier in front of the U.S. tourist coming into Canada. With a tourist deficit projected to be \$10 billion by 1985 will the minister, if he is not ready to end these metrication follies, at least postpone the change to kilometres until he has ascertained that that move will not damage our already shaky tourist industry?