

in his department to the effect that wage disparities between men and women in Canada are actually increasing rather decreasing?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The women's bureau in my department conducts these studies and brings these matters to the attention of the Canadian public generally. We then forward the findings to the various provincial jurisdictions in the hope that through legislative measures there, plus provisions in our own labour standards code, action can be taken on the basis of these facts. As the hon. member is aware, in terms of labour standards, the vast majority of the work force is under provincial jurisdiction. We shall be discussing this type of thing at the next federal-provincial conference of labour ministers.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I have a supplementary for the President of the Treasury Board. Considering the fact that 10 per cent of the labour force in general, as well as the whole of the federal civil service, are the responsibility of the federal government, and since the latest report of the Public Service Commission points out that in the federal civil service 69 per cent of the women as opposed to only 20 per cent of the men earned less than \$7,500, and considering that only one per cent of all the executive positions in the civil service are occupied by women, will the hon. gentleman tell us what concrete steps he is taking to change this situation?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know, a special section of the Public Service Commission is dealing with that problem. I think considerable progress has been achieved in recent years, but a continuing effort will have to be made to increase the number of women within the public service.

* * *

[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERESTS COMMISSION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): A question to the Acting Prime Minister. In the light of the statement made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare last October to the effect that legislation establishing a human rights and interests commission which would be responsible, among other things, for enforcing non-discrimination on the basis of sex in terms of employment practices would be introduced before the end of 1974, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister why, at this point in 1975, such a measure has not even been brought forward for first reading?

Oral Questions

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The bill in draft form is now before cabinet. It is proving to be an extremely complicated measure, and this is the reason for the delay, not because the government is not anxious to introduce the legislation.

* * *

[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

DATE OF INSTALLATION OF RADAR EQUIPMENT AT VAL-D'OR

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

As a result of my recent interview with the minister last Tuesday concerning the problem created by air navigation at the Val-d'Or airport since the departure of the armed forces, could the minister tell us whether a radar will be set up again at that airport, as the problem is extremely urgent and must be settled as soon as possible for the security of air passengers?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I do not know, Mr. Speaker, whether a new radar will be set up in Val-d'Or, but I know that my department is considering the opportunity of providing more modern equipment so that air navigation may be safer in that area.

Mr. Caouette (Villeneuve): I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Following the minister's answer, since there is a danger of accident in foggy weather due to the lack of radar at the airport, could the minister tell us when the aforementioned aids will be set up?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): The only thing I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that my department is investigating and will eventually report to me.

* * *

● (1420)

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE—POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNTRIES APPROVING ECONOMIC ZONE CONCEPT IF CONFERENCE FAILS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that which was asked a moment ago by the Leader of the Opposition, and I direct it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since the Law of the Sea Conference cannot succeed on any basis other than a convention founded on a concept of the economic zone coupled with that of the common heritage of mankind—and obviously this concept has not been accepted—is it the government's intention to wait until this matter is further debated at the next Law of the Sea Conference suggested for next year, or will bilateral discussions be held with the United States and other countries who approve of the economic zone concept in the hope that early unilateral action may be taken by Canada