

afford to have this thing going on as it has been in the past to the detriment of so many Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HUMAN RIGHTS

REQUEST FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION OF BILL C-72

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Turning now to another matter, Bill C-72, which I believe lies within his jurisdiction, may I ask the Minister of Justice when the proposed legislation on human rights is likely to be introduced to parliament for second reading? Various circumstances, including the presentation of the report on immigration, require that this matter be dealt with expeditiously. Can the hon. gentleman give me an assurance that he, together with the House leader, can bring this bill forward for second reading as soon as possible?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): With regard to the earlier question, may I say I fully share the hon. member's concern about the harassment by telephone of certain groups that is going on in Toronto. I share the seriousness with which he regards it. As to the second question, House business is, of course, a matter to be negotiated between the various House leaders. Our program has been held up because of the anti-inflation measure; also, the federal-provincial meeting to which I referred earlier is being held to deal with Bill C-72, the human rights bill, and I think it would not be useful to bring the measure forward for second reading until that meeting has been held.

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MANPOWER

NOTIFICATION BY FALCONBRIDGE NICKEL OF INTENTION TO LAY-OFF EMPLOYEES

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In light of the minister's answer yesterday that he would check with his department regarding whether Falconbridge Nickel Company had contacted his department with respect to advance notice of the company's two-phase lay-off, is he now prepared to tell the House whether or not his department was contacted? If not, in the light of the federal Labour Code which requires 16 weeks notification if more than 300 are being laid off, is he prepared to order Falconbridge to conform to this particular statute?

● (1430)

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I initiated the request for information on this matter but I did not have it at the time when I came to the House for the question period this afternoon. On the second point, without getting too much into the area of legal matters, it is my understanding that the Canada Labour Code refers in these opinions to firms under federal jurisdiction. It would probably be more apt to have the matter raised in the provincial house of

Oral Questions

Ontario, where I think more action could be taken regarding Falconbridge itself. However, I am certainly keenly interested and I will be letting the hon. member know what voluntary methods we can support in order to get some action.

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FINANCE

SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL OF TAX CONCESSIONS TO FALCONBRIDGE NICKEL ON OPERATIONS IN NAMIBIA

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I will address to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that Falconbridge is implementing production cutbacks in Canada while at the same time maintaining increased production at its overseas plants—so obviously the workers of Ontario are subsidizing the overseas operations of Falconbridge—is the government now prepared to withdraw the tax concessions granted to Falconbridge for its operations in Namibia?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to examine that more deeply.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF SIGNING AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA ON WEED CONTROL IN OKANAGAN BASIN

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. Considering the negative decision regarding the \$100,000 federal share in the dredging program to combat weed growth in Okanagan lake, can the minister now say what decision has been made regarding signing the general implementation program for weed control in the Okanagan water basin with the provincial government?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the plan to contribute \$100,000 toward the removal of weeds in the Okanagan lakes was subject to treasury board approval, which was not obtained due to the restraint program. However, the implementation agreement on the Okanagan basin is now before us. It will be signed in the very near future and hopefully out of that agreement some long term program for the treatment of these weeds in these very valuable lakes will flow.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—METHOD BY WHICH BOARD WILL CONTROL AND ROLL BACK FOOD PRICE INCREASES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. When the minister appeared before the standing committee in connection with the examination of Bill C-73 he indicated in reply to a question that he had no idea how the Anti-Inflation Board would respond to or control food price