

representations have been made to him asking him to grant them the status of political refugees and, if so, can the minister tell the House if it has been, or will, be granted?

[English]

**Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, that appeal is now before the Immigration Appeal Board. It was handled by an interdepartmental committee which found there was not refugee status. I will be glad to keep the hon. member informed with regard to the status.

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### OLYMPIC GAMES

#### REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF COINS—POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT COVERING LOSS

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Postmaster General. In view of the delay in circulating series three of the Olympic coin program, and God knows they do not need any more problems than they already have, primarily because of the strike at the Mint and because of the fact that Mr. Page, a director of that program, has already announced a cut from the original nine million coins in the third series to five million, perhaps due to problems other than the strike, can the minister advise what the status of the coin program will be in the event of a continuation of the strike at the Mint and does his department have any contingency plans for supplementing the unexpected losses being encountered in the overall coin program?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, there are several very serious questions. I know the hon. member supports the Olympics and the financing of the Olympics. He will be pleased to know that the strike is in no way impeding the circulation of coin sets No. III since they are in the possession of Brinks Express and the government and not in the Mint.

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● (1500)

### ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

#### STRIKE OF EMPLOYEES—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SETTLE

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Because the Minister of Labour stated in the House last Monday that he is not free to discuss, here, policies with respect to labour—I wonder where he expects to discuss problems relating to his department if not in this House—I should like to put my question to the Minister of Supply and Services. In view of the fact that approximately \$150 million in production of coins has been lost since the strike at the Mint began on January 9 and because there exists a serious coin shortage in Canada notwithstanding the Olympic program shortages, could the minister inform the House of the latest offers made to striking workers at the Mint and what

### Oral Questions

specific steps are being taken by the government to bring this costly strike to an end?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, it was agreed with the union that no public comment would be made during the negotiating period.

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[English]

### MANPOWER

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—REFUSAL TO PERMIT MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE TO SERVE ON AREA COMMITTEE

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, but in his absence I will direct it to the acting minister or the parliamentary secretary. I have already given notice of the question. Would the acting minister advise the House whether it is now departmental policy to exclude members of provincial legislatures from management area committees relating to the OFY program on the grounds of conflict of interest? Can the hon. gentleman also say briefly why he considers this to be improper, since nothing was mentioned about this in the letter of instructions soliciting nominations from members of parliament. I am particularly interested since I nominated a member of the Nova Scotia Legislature, a Liberal member, who was rejected despite his willingness to serve.

**Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, as all hon. members know, each member was contacted to suggest names for this advisory group and guidelines were set out. I think there is a question in this particular case of whether the gentleman nominated is impartial.

**Mr. MacKay:** Mr. Speaker, I am interested to know he might not be considered impartial. Certainly, I would never make that suggestion.

**Mr. Alexander:** I would.

**Mr. MacKay:** Obviously, the hon. member knows more about this gentleman than I do. In reassessing the criteria for this type of committee or advisory board, I should like to know whether the department would look into the question of elected municipal officials being nominated so that members might have a greater idea of whom this government deems acceptable for service on these boards.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### NIGER—ALLEGATION PEOPLE STARVING IN SPITE OF AVAILABILITY OF CANADIAN GRAIN—MEASURES TO CONTROL AID PROGRAM

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister investigated a situation