

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

## INQUIRY CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF BREAKTHROUGH IN NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Raymond Dupont (Chambly):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Concerning the Radio-Canada conflict which has been lasting for a good many months, I would like to know if there are ongoing negotiations between management and labour and, through the good offices of the mediator, does the minister expect an early end to the negotiations in the hope of reaching a negotiated agreement as soon as possible?

[English]

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour):** Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. There is considerable and widespread concern about the three work stoppages involving the CBC or Radio-Canada at the present time. The work stoppage that involves the French language journalists has been under way since last fall. As recently as three days ago the Labour Canada mediator met again with the parties and has made substantial progress, even in the past two weeks. However, there remain outstanding differences. It is proving to be a very difficult strike in which to bring the two parties together.

The dispute involving NABET, or the technicians, the two groups, also continues. It has now been under way for a month and a half or two months. Our mediators are available to meet with the striking parties and have been doing so from time to time. With regard to either of these disputes, I am not able to offer the hon. member the hope of an immediate settlement. I can tell him that progress has been made. While they are difficult disputes, we are hopeful that the parties will continue to be more realistic and come to an agreement.

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**IMMIGRATION**

## CUTBACKS IN SERVICES

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The mayor of Vancouver forecasts an increase in racism as a result of 50 per cent cutbacks in immigrant services. Inasmuch as the employment and immigration task force overwhelmingly points out the need for employment counselling, job placement, and educational services for immigrants, is the minister now prepared to restore funding for immigrant services and adaptation programs, and will he extend programs for immigrant women?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** As the hon. member knows, Madam Speaker, about a month ago we did announce a number of new initiatives we are inclined to take to assist immigrant women in particular. We have decided to pursue an integrated language training

policy. My colleague, the Minister of State for Multiculturalism, and I, are presently working on the details of that program. It will be of major assistance in giving immigrant women a chance in the workplace. As far as the ISAP program is concerned, the funding reverted back to its original level as it was established in 1979 before the major movement of refugees from southeast Asia. We are presently examining and discussing whether additional resources can be put into that program.

## CERTIFICATES FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, we are pleased at some of the initiatives being taken on behalf of immigrant women, in particular that foreign domestic workers may become landed immigrants. Is the minister considering a requirement that domestics have a vocational certificate in order to remain in Canada? If so, would that not discriminate against Caribbean women in favour of British nannies?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I spent a good part of this morning meeting with a number of representatives of different organizations. They speak for domestic workers across Canada. They brought that problem to my attention. That certainly is not the intent of the new regulations. As the hon. member knows, we issued a series of new regulations applying to domestic workers to give more of them a chance to acquire landed status in Canada. I have taken note of their concerns. We are checking them out. I can assure the hon. member that is not the intent of the regulation, even though it may be applied in that way in some of our offices. If that is the case, we will change it.

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**METRIC CONVERSION**

## DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism. In an answer in this House on April 23, the minister confirmed he had met that day with both the president of the Canadian Federation of Retail Grocers and the president of the Canadian Organization of Small Business. In his response he said:

They simply asked that with them I look into the possibility of setting another time schedule and of finding other means of easing into conversion.

The minister has now had two months to examine that possibility with cabinet. Has he been successful in obtaining a new date to coincide more with the implementation of metric in the United States?

[Translation]

**Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism):** Madam Speaker, after a meeting with my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate