

approximately two weeks because of ice conditions at the beginning of the season, is it the intention of the department to extend the season beyond the June 30 deadline?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries): The department is looking into this matter. I will give the hon. member an answer as soon as I have made inquiries.

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AGRICULTURE

FOWL SLAUGHTER PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Murray McBride (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It has to do with the federal program of fowl slaughter now under way to improve the egg prices paid to farmers. Will the minister be making a progress report on this program by way of a statement on motions before the House rises at the end of June?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to do so. However, I can advise the House that this program will be terminated today because we have reached the objective of reducing the flock by about one million birds.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

QUEBEC—LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE—ALLEGED BOYCOTT OF ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS BY UNION

Mr. Raymond Rock (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Labour arising from the labour dispute in the Port of Montreal. Since the arbitration hearings have so far been boycotted by the union, what action does the government intend to take before the recess, if the boycott continues, in order to get the Port of Montreal back into operation?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Acting Minister of Labour): I understand the judge in question has announced that he will proceed with the arbitration hearing tomorrow, if necessary on an ex-parte basis.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

FOWL SLAUGHTER PROGRAM—REQUEST TO EXTEND DEADLINE FOR GRANTS

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture concerning the policy on slaughtering fowl.

Since on June 8 the minister announced that subsidies would vary in so far as the objective would be attained within a period of eight weeks or less and since many producers of my area have not been able to claim that subsidy—

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is making a speech when he should ask a question.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, could the minister indicate how he can grant the same benefits to producers who have not yet applied for this subsidy?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I recognize that this is a problem, but we did announce at the time the program was initiated that when the total flock had been reduced by an appropriate amount it would be terminated whether that process took four weeks, six weeks, eight weeks, or any other period. There has been a very significant improvement in egg prices and now we have reached the point in numbers at which the objective of flock reduction has been attained.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

HALIFAX DOCKYARD—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ACCIDENT

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to direct to the Minister of National Defence. It concerns the two tragic deaths in the Halifax dockyard the other day. Can the minister tell us whether the inquiry, which I know must be taking place, has produced any evidence of negligence to date?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker. I have received no report on the inquiry in this case.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I should like to call attention to the presence in the gallery of a distinguished parliamentarian, the Minister of Defence of Norway.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

FAMILY INCOME SECURITY PLAN

MEASURE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-170, to provide for the payment of benefits in respect of children, as reported (with an amendment) from the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs and Motion No. 9.

Mr. Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?