

Oral Questions

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Madam Speaker, the question is somewhat repetitious. I have already indicated that I am taking action. I have indicated I am hopeful there will be additional funds. I cannot see what more I can add until I meet with the Manitoba Indian group tomorrow.

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CANADA LABOUR CODE**INDUSTRIAL USE OF CANCER RISKING SUBSTANCES**

Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In view of recent statements that more than 10,000 Canadians will die this year from cancer they contracted on the job, and that if 20 substances now in common use in industry were better controlled, cancer risks could be greatly reduced, can the minister say whether the current review of Part IV of the Labour Code is actively addressing this aspect of industrial health and safety?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, the question raised by the hon. member is a very important one. Indeed, the review of Part IV of the Labour Code, which is presently under way, with in-depth consultation with both the Canadian Labour Congress and business leaders within the country, is aimed at better enabling government to regulate the protection of safety and health of workers, certainly as it relates to cancer but also as it relates to other diseases and safety situations. It is hoped that legislation will be forthcoming in the near future, at the conclusion of this comprehensive review, aimed at consolidating as well as improving the laws in that regard.

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● (1440)

PUBLIC SERVICE**STAFFING PRACTICES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for the Treasury Board. Earlier in this question period the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings brought up the issue of appointments to the Department of Transport. I read from an ad for foreign service secretaries which was in the Ottawa area on the weekend. The first sentence of the ad reads as follows: "If you are a resident of the province of Quebec or Ontario with secretarial experience and have the ability to take dictation", you may want to work in a foreign embassy.

Could the minister explain to me why Canadian secretaries, to be entitled to work in our foreign missions, should be from the province of Ontario or Quebec?

[Translation]

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, the question asked by the hon.

member may be very interesting but, as I have just explained, it does not come within the jurisdiction of the Treasury Board. It should be addressed to my colleague, the Secretary of State.

[English]

The Public Service Commission reports through the Secretary of State. As I explained, staffing is not a responsibility of the Treasury Board.

An hon. Member: It's a government responsibility.

Mr. Hawkes: The nature of that ad would appear to run counter to some sections of the new Constitution Act. Given the fact that the Quebec government has found at least 100 laws which will have to be changed once this act passes, can the minister tell us what staffing preparation he has put in place through the main estimates to enable the Government of Canada to change hundreds of laws and regulations that will need to be changed if this act, as it is presently written, goes forward? Can the minister tell us where to find, in the main estimates, that staffing increase which will be necessary to straighten up the chaos which will follow?

An hon. Member: More big government.

Mr. Johnston: I am not sure I fully understand the thrust of the hon. member's question. I have already explained in some detail in this House, at the time of tabling the main estimates—

An hon. Member: Call in Gallant.

Mr. Johnston:—exactly what the person-year requirements of the government are in the coming year. I indicated that those increases were primarily due to the census for 1981, and that certain other departments, Energy Mines and Resources, for example, and Fisheries and Oceans, required additional person-years. I think that I fully explained the requirements envisaged by my colleagues in the cabinet at that time.

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THE ENVIRONMENT**ALICE ARM, B.C.—DUMPING OF TOXIC WASTE BY AMAX MINE**

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. As the minister knows, during the 1979 election a special order in council was passed at the instigation of the minister to allow an extraordinary increase in mine tailings effluent from the Amax Mine in Alice Arm, British Columbia.

In view of the fact that that was done secretly and that it exceeds—as my hon. colleague, the hon. member for Skeena said—by thousands, the present regulations set down by the federal government for effluent outlets, why was it done secretly? Why was there no environmental assessment review procedure? Why is the present government prepared to stand on what was done secretly and refuse the Nishga Indians a public hearing into whether or not this is sound, before the