

The various departments will be informed about those decisions as soon as Treasury Board has processed them.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, first of all, in view of the statement with respect to special measures, I hope the minister can give us a more detailed indication of what these steps by deputy ministers might be, so there can be some real assurance in this area.

● (1442)

Having regard to the further initiatives being taken by Treasury Board covering the employment of women generally in the public service, and the fact that more than 100,000 women are in fact directly concerned or affected by these possible measures, and the annual accounting that has taken place for Treasury Board regarding the equal opportunity program since 1975, on March 8 the minister indicated to me he would give serious consideration to making public those plans presently in effect, plus these additional ones now being implemented by Treasury Board, would the minister now give some clear indication when he will be able to make a public statement on this matter, giving some public indication so we will know that effective steps are, in fact, being taken?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the President of the Treasury Board will want to expand on this. The only thing I can tell the hon. member is that we have, indeed, decided to make these figures available. I understand the President of the Treasury Board is reviewing the appropriate time and method of making them available. This is a matter of compiling and getting the information translated. As far as the availability of the information and the content of the plans of the various departments is concerned, the government has agreed to make the information available on a regular basis as soon as it is available.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact there are new plans which will now be made public, as I understand from the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, and in view of the fact it is not yet clear whether the accounting that has taken place on an annual basis—which has basically been internal up to now, and that is important information in terms of where progress has and has not been made and for what reasons—will also be made public in order that we will have a full picture of what has been happening since we instituted programs in 1975, would the President of the Treasury Board indicate what further measures will obviously be necessary in order to achieve effective opportunities for women in the public service?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, that is under consideration. I will be completing my examination of it in the near future and will advise the hon. member.

Oral Questions

CANADA WORKS PROGRAM

EXTENSION AND FUNDING OF PROGRAM

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In view of the importance of the Canada Works Program to many communities across the country in the creation of employment and the carrying out of projects, would the minister tell us whether there is going to be a cycle of the program later this summer, what the deadline for applications will be, and how much funding will be provided for this program?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have written to each member of parliament on the Young Canada Works Program and the date involved. In so far as the Canada Works Program is concerned, applications will be available in April of 1978, and June 24, 1978, is the application deadline. Projects will commence in September.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

AVAILABILITY TO NATIVE WOMEN'S GROUPS OF DOCUMENTS ON HISTORY OF INDIAN ACT

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the fact that the federal government has committed funds to the Indian Rights for Indian Women's Association to research their present status under the Indian Act, especially as it applies to section 10 and section 12(1)(B), I should like to ask what steps the minister is taking to reverse the statements made over the weekend by an employee of the department, Dr. Katie Cooke, to the effect that native women's groups will not be allowed or able to obtain documents on the history of the Indian Act. And will the minister assure the House that the information will be forthcoming to Indian women's groups?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, that appears to me to be a perfectly reasonable request. I will be pleased to look into it. I was not aware of the statement by Dr. Cooke.

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, given the recent statement by the president of the National Indian Brotherhood that the joint cabinet-NIB committee revising the Indian Act is, as he says, "a farce, a process that is simply not working", and given the continuing discriminatory aspects of the present Indian Act—which is a matter of great concern both to the native people and many other Canadians—will the minister say whether this joint committee has yet set a deadline for its reporting procedures, or will it be setting a deadline on when its work shall be completed? Has it considered any kind of mechanism or any interim measures which might be taken until it reports, in order to relieve discriminatory aspects against Indian women?