

*Inquiries of the Ministry***PUBLIC SERVICE****COLLECTIVE BARGAINING—POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL**

the city, I wish to ask the minister whether he authorized this statement to be made, whether he agrees with it, and also when the city of Oshawa can expect an answer to or an acknowledgement of its brief?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, if memory serves me right, they have had an acknowledgement of their brief, but they have not had an answer to all the points in the brief. With regard to the first part of the question, I may say the minister did not authorize such a statement. This is the first knowledge he has had of it.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS****DELAY IN ADMISSION TO SUNNYBROOK HOSPITAL**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs if he has an answer to my question of last Friday concerning Sunnybrook Hospital? Are veterans admitted promptly, or is there a rather substantial delay in their being admitted to that place?

**Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, veterans entitled to treatment as of right, that is, for their pension disabilities, are admitted promptly as they have always been. With respect to non-pensioned disabilities there has been for some time past, and at present there still is, some delay in admitting non-emergency chronic treatment or domiciliary cases, as the accommodation for this type of patient is nearly always 100 per cent occupied. There is no change in that situation since October 1.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****GLEICHEN, ALTA.—DEATH FROM FIRE OF CHILDREN ON RESERVE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether he now has a report ready with reference to the recent tragedy at Gleichen, Alberta, in which several children lost their lives and which matter was raised by the hon. member for Calgary North and myself?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I am informed that a coroner's inquest is being held on December 14 in respect of the death of the five Indian children. I should not like to make any comment until that time.

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board. Has the minister received communications from the director of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada protesting against certain activities of senior officers in various departments and agencies seeking to belittle the value of collective bargaining in the public service and appearing to suggest that most of the professional personnel will be excluded from the proposed bargaining units? Would the minister inform the house what reply he has made to these protests, and what action if any he has taken to end such activities, which are somewhat typical of unfriendly management activities?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I have received such a letter and have replied to it. I should not like to comment on the exact contents of either letter until I have them in front of me. I should like to say, however, that my inquiries have indicated there was no such intimidation going on to the knowledge of the Treasury Board.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, may I preface my remarks by suggesting to the minister that the executive director of the Professional Institute—

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think the hon. member can, according to the rules, preface his question in any way.

**Mr. Lewis:** Then, Mr. Speaker, let me put it this way: In view of the fact that the executive director of the Professional Institute is a very responsible person, would the minister undertake to make some further inquiries into these charges, which have not been made lightly?

**Mr. Benson:** As I indicated, I already have made inquiries in this regard. I am quite willing to make further inquiries, and can assure my hon. friend that it is not the policy of the government or of the Treasury Board to discourage anyone from joining any public service association; indeed we would encourage them to do so.